



PRESIDENT TRUJILLO  
HIS WORK AND THE  
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

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# PRESIDENT TRUJILLO

HIS WORK AND THE  
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



# PRESIDENT TRUJILLO

## HIS WORK AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

BY  
LAWRENCE DE BESAULT

AN ACCOUNT OF THE CAREER OF GENERALISIMO RAFAEL  
LEONIDAS TRUJILLO MOLINA, PRESIDENT OF THE DOMINICAN  
REPUBLIC, AND THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND DEVELOPMENT  
OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP.

SECOND EDITION

THE WASHINGTON PUBLISHING COMPANY





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*This book is dedicated to all  
those that love liberty, order,  
peace, progress and work.*



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## PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION

IT HAS been a source of keen gratification to me that almost immediately after the appearance of the first edition of "President Trujillo: His Work and the Dominican Republic," another edition has been made necessary by the extraordinary interest in our Southern neighboring land and its remarkable leader.

Americans are today more conscious than ever before of the common humanity of all races and peoples, and of the interdependence of nations in their material and spiritual progress. Particularly important are those countries making up the community of American nations, and in this community the first nation historically, the land where today the Dominican Republic stands, is of peculiar interest.

I realize that the great interest shown in this work, and the many flattering comments from varied sources, have been caused by the constantly growing admiration for President Rafael L. Trujillo, and the increasing understanding of his true greatness. To have had a part in bringing to the United States a knowledge of this historic figure has been a great privilege.

Advantage has been taken of the opportunity afforded by a second edition to make a thorough revision of all the material contained in the first, and to bring it up to date in every way. In addition, a considerable quantity of entirely new material has been added, including two new chapters.

In this material will be found the 1936 message of President Trujillo to the National Congress, which gives a thorough analysis of every department of activity in the Republic in 1935. The mere casual reading of this message gives one an insight into the amazing development of the nation under the tremendously able administration of President Trujillo.

LAWRENCE DE BESAULT

*Washington, D. C.*

## Foreword

*This book tells a story that is not only interesting, but amazing. It is, first of all, the story of one of the world's strongest personalities; and second, the story of the rebirth of a nation.*

*How a demoralized nation, after centuries of bitter oppression, followed by eighty-six years of civil strife, revolution, bloodshed and poverty, leaving its citizens bitter, hungry and disillusioned, could in the space of five years be welded into an organized, disciplined, working, patriotic, united and enthusiastic body of men, women and children, is a miracle—a miracle that has occurred. It is well worth knowing the man who accomplished that miracle.*

*While the nations of the world have been increasing armaments and settling their disputes with dynamite, poison gas and leaden bullets, the Dominican Republic has settled peacefully with the Republic of Haiti a far more serious difference than those that cause most wars. While the world has been swept by a depression that has brought misery and starvation to the masses of the people, each year has seen increasing prosperity in the Dominican Republic. While governments have exceeded income by billions in expenditures, President Rafael L. Trujillo has balanced the nation's budget each year, while paying out of it from current revenue the entire cost of an unprecedented program of public works.*

*This is the story of the man who has accomplished these things, his work and the Dominican Republic.*



# Introduction:

An Interview with President Trujillo



# Introduction

## AN INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT TRUJILLO

IT HAS fallen to my lot to meet and know many men whom the world calls great. Through the power of their wills and minds, or through the force of circumstances, they have become the leaders of groups, parties and nations. Each one has left a vivid impression in my memory.

None of them, however, has had quite the same effect on me as General Trujillo, President of the nation whose discoverer was Christopher Columbus and whose first governor was Columbus' son.

All leaders are extraordinary characters. Here is one who would be outstanding in the midst of world leaders. His career, his personality, his mind, his accomplishments, are unique.

He is as sincere and unaffected as was his humble boyhood in a small town which gave him his first job, as a telegraph operator; but his glance is as regal and piercing as were his ancestors, a long line of Spanish and French aristocrats who made their mark in the New World. He is usually as quiet and calm as the breezes that caress the capital, but he can be as powerful as the hurricane of 1930 that in two hours razed the city to its foundations, giving him the opportunity to rebuild it into one of the world's most beautiful centers.

General Trujillo—or to give him his full name, as is the

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Latin custom, Rafael Leonidas Trujillo Molina—became President by popular demand of the people of the Dominican Republic. He received 95 per cent of the total votes of the people, though he had never been a political candidate before, nor interested himself in politics. He is a soldier who believes the salvation of the nation lies in agricultural development, a man who actually is practicing the doctrine of turning swords into ploughshares. These are some of the amazing points in the career of a man who is making history.

It is difficult to capture the personality of this man in a photograph. From the pictures I had seen it was clear that he has a striking appearance, but meeting him opened a new vista. He is tall, sturdy, straight as an arrow, handsome, distinguished—but he is more than this. From his eyes and his expression a certain atmosphere of strength and a confidence radiates that can be overwhelming. As I shook his hand and gazed into his eyes I could understand how he won the nation to himself by the simple statement before he was elected President: “There is no danger in following me.” Without arrogance, without self-consciousness, he entered the Presidency as a man whom his people would follow to the ends of the earth, and he has justified their faith.

He was just 39 years old then, entirely without experience in affairs of state. In 11 years he had risen steadily from his first army post as second lieutenant to the commander of the Dominican army; his name was known to military men in many countries. But he had never interfered in politics in any way.

Nor did his presidency result from any such interference. When in February, 1930, revolution came to



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his land, the army took no active part. When amazingly the then president resigned and made the leader of the revolution Provisional President, although the revolutionists were unarmed, he did not interfere. His heart bled for his country, with widespread unemployment, its treasury drained, its inhabitants starving; a nation exhausted and prostrate, the victim of years of inefficiency, graft, rapacity from inside and out. He knew in his heart that he could save the nation, and he had the courage to accept the candidacy for the presidency when it was offered him. Only then did he enter the field of statesmanship.

As I talked with General Trujillo, my mind went back to those tense days when the world was sinking into the depression that still is wreaking its fury. The Dominican Republic had already had its depression. It had anticipated its sister nations. Apparently it could sink no further into destitution and poverty.

I asked General Trujillo: "Weren't you discouraged and doubtful when you first faced the gigantic problem of raising your country from the depths?"

His eyes flashed. "Not at all," he answered. "I have always had absolute confidence in myself and my country. I had made my plans."

Nor was he ignorant of the critical condition of the Dominican Republic. He merely faced it frankly. In his inaugural address on August 16, 1930, he had said: "In our short and agitated national existence, often disturbed by events as violent as they were desperate, there has perhaps been no more interesting moment than that whose first step culminates today. The national con-

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science, sunk into lethargy from the weight of a government without ideals, seemed definitely to have become inert, and the hopes that people are accustomed to place in their officials had died in the hearts of Dominicans. Faith was lost, and life alternated between shouted and vague protests from some, and silence and resigned submission from others." Then he proceeded to outline calmly the steps to be taken for national reconstruction.

"So when your administration began you had your plans made?" I inquired.

"Yes," he said.

"And then what happened?"

A sad smile passed over his face. "Then came the hurricane," he answered.

He referred to that fateful day, less than three weeks after he took office, when a sudden hurricane swept over the island with fiendish fury, leaving behind a trail of desolation—thousands of inhabitants killed outright, more than 10,000 injured, and almost every building in the capital entirely demolished. Nature in a single blow, had added immeasurably to the woes of the nation.

Many stories are told of General Trujillo as he faced this, the supreme crisis of his life. Not for a moment did he falter. An intimate friend of his told me: "I saw President Trujillo on Separacion Street the night of the hurricane, picking his way among the corpses thatstrewed the street. First he made a personal inspection of the city. Then he secured money of his own, and with his own hands distributed it to the poor, and even to the rich, for in that moment all of us were poverty-stricken. Even

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those of us who had known the President from childhood hardly recognized him in those moments. He was filled with electric energy; his eyes gleamed with a strange light. It seemed that some outside force, perhaps from heaven, was guiding him. For days he neither slept nor ate, nor did he allow those about him to rest. It was an enormous inspiration for the city, for everyone realized we had one man who lived only for the general welfare, and the confidence which we had in General Trujillo was confirmed as we saw a leader who did not fail in a great crisis."

I asked General Trujillo about those days of horror, when the whole world read the daily reports of the tragedy. A little grimly he told me a few of his memories. "The day after the hurricane the officer whose regiment I had sent out to collect and bury the bodies in the streets and homes, came to me and broke down in tears. 'Mr. President,' he said, 'I can't go on—there are too many killed. There is no place to bury them all.' I said, 'Colonel, you stay here. I'll go out and take care of the situation.'

"I went to the Plaza Columbina and ordered that all the bodies be brought there, the rich, the poor, civilians, soldiers, prisoners. At about five in the afternoon I had Captain Paulino secure large quantities of gasoline, and at seven I ordered that the gasoline be poured over the bodies and the Plaza, and all the bodies burned. Without this drastic step we should have suffered an epidemic that would have destroyed the capital itself. There was no water, no light, no food; medicine and supplies were wanting.

"I recall that as I was giving these orders news came

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to me that the wife and five children of one of my brothers had perished in the hurricane. No one in the city had gone unscathed. It was natural that nearly everyone was stunned by grief, but I had to think of the crisis facing us—the menace of a situation that could easily become more serious than the hurricane itself. It was a time when drastic measures were supreme ones.”

President Trujillo mused for a moment as the memories passed in review in his mind. Not a word of any internal struggles at the strain of it all passed his lips.

“There was work to be done. We did it,” he said. “After two days the Secretary of State said to me, ‘Don’t work any longer now. You must have sleep and rest. I can’t keep it up any longer.’ I said to him, ‘Sit down and go on working.’

“A few days later Mr. Olmes, one of the American officials, came to see me. ‘I am going to notify Washington,’ he told me, ‘that this disaster has been too great—that the Dominican government must not be expected now to comply with its financial obligations.’ I replied, ‘No, sir. On the contrary, I shall comply with every single one of our obligations.’ ”

“And you were confident every moment?” I asked.

“Always. We have never had any outside aid of any kind since I have been President; on the contrary, there have been attacks. But it has never mattered to me. I march forward always. Obstacles do not impede me. I decide on the road to follow—and I follow that road.” Here was no boast, no declamation—simply the statement of life as President Trujillo sees it.

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Such determination made me wonder about the earlier life of the President. The Presidency had apparently been thrust upon him, yet a man of his stamp must have been preparing himself.

“When did you first think of becoming President of the Dominican Republic?” I inquired.

Like a shot his answer came:

“When I first began thinking at all, as a child.”

“And when did you first decide definitely that you would be President?”

“The same day I began thinking about it.”

Much has happened since the days of the hurricane. The visitor to the Dominican Republic finds a prosperous, busy nation, broad highways stretching everywhere, great bridges crossing rivers, the land under intensive cultivation. When he examines the capital, Trujillo City, he sees a magnificent, thoroughly modern city of startling cleanliness. He revels in the parks and beautiful drives, in the residences and buildings that have effaced the marks of the hurricane. Very quickly he realizes that some hand has been at work—some force bringing order and new life. The hand is that of President Trujillo—the force, the enormous determination he expressed in those few words to me.

“The hurricane must have caused you to change all the plans you had made at the time of your inauguration,” I remarked to him.

“Naturally there were some changes, for we were suddenly faced with new problems. But fundamentally my

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plans did not alter a bit. We continued exactly as we had started. Three months after the hurricane our national budget had been cut in half. The capital was being reconstructed. Highways over the nation were being built. Complete reform of government operation was under way.

“This is the first time in Dominican history that important public works have been accomplished with our own current resources. All former governments resorted to loans with the plea of public works that did not materialize, for the money was used to increase their annual budget; even the former American military government here made a loan of ten million dollars.

“But under my administration we have actually carried out more important public projects than ever before, and we have done it with our own resources, paying at the same time financial obligations contracted by others in former days.”

I asked: “President Trujillo, in your opinion, what is your most important achievement as President?”

Instantly he replied: “In the administrative field, the arrangement of our foreign debt and the complete reform of our methods of taxation and handling of government funds. Taxation today is honest, and money is spent as it should be, in productive public works for the benefit of the people, without graft.

“In the foreign field I have definitely arranged the question with Haiti regarding our frontiers. Dominican and Haitian engineers have now marked the frontiers, and the doubts and lack of confidence of the two nations occupying the same island have disappeared.

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“The greatest physical public work of my administration is the port at the capital, now under construction. As a matter of fact, this is the greatest project our nation has undertaken since we first declared independence. It is now ninety years since our citizens first began hoping and planning for this port, but nothing was actually done, though millions were appropriated. Now we are really at work on it, and I believe within a short time the entire project will be finished.

“The port will enable us to have more intimate relations with the other nations of the world, and will enable us to be better known. Tourist travel will be increased, and we expect to have many tourists here constantly. With the harbor giving easy access, there should be many visitors, for this city offers many beautiful sights. It is the cradle of the Americas, filled with the finest souvenirs of the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus. Here repose the remains of Columbus himself; here is the mansion where his son, Don Diego Colon, and his wife, Doña Maria de Toledo, passed their lives; here stands the fort constructed by Father Nicolas de Ovando, where the great historian Oviedo lived and died; here are the ruins of ancient monasteries, forts, colonial buildings. We have here the first university of the western world, and still standing, the first cathedral in America.

“To attract tourists we are going to build almost immediately comfortable hotels conveniently situated, and every other attraction that makes a visitor’s stay pleasant.”

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It was interesting to see how the President's enthusiasm rose as he talked of his nation. Whenever its beauties or the projects which are making it greater were mentioned, his eyes would gleam.

"Has all your work," I asked, "been done without asking outside financial aid, including the construction of the new harbor?"

"We have asked absolutely no one for any money whatever. Our conditions have been very difficult indeed; we have followed a tortuous road, in spite of our great accomplishments, and all of our public works represent an enormous effort on our part. Our desire now is to secure a new commercial treaty with the United States which will favor the sale of our products, and particularly which will open a market for our sugar industry. I am sure of obtaining such a treaty, counting in advance on the spirit of justice and benevolence of the American government. Seventy-three per cent of our foreign purchases are from the United States, yet only 15 per cent of our exports go there, which is very disproportionate."

"What have been your relations with foreign firms, particularly American firms, doing business in your country? How have they acted, and how have you treated them?"

"The sugar industry, represented by seven sugar centrals, has received full aid and protection from my government, and has progressed steadily under the most amicable conditions. It demonstrated its satisfaction by asking in advance that I extend my term of office to 1942. Our relations with other industries have also been felicitous, for every foreign firm that has come here to operate



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within the limits of our laws and with respect for our institutions, has been welcomed, and has received every attention and complete guarantees."

But I quickly found that all of President Trujillo's accomplishments do not lie in commerce and diplomatic negotiations, nor alone in the vast public construction projects that have meant so much. He has entered into the life of his people, studied their living problems, their domestic life, their hopes and fears and aspirations. He told me of the long and successful struggle to bring back the pride of country that previous years of hopelessness had almost destroyed. I remarked that a band concert in a public park in Trujillo City I had heard the previous evening had been a magnificent spectacle, and the spontaneity and pride with which everyone had jumped to his feet and stood at attention during the playing of the Dominican national hymn had been particularly impressive.

"All that is new to our country," said President Trujillo. "Formerly it was not done by Dominicans. When I first came into office I ordered that our national hymn should be played at the beginning and end of every public concert, and that everyone should rise and stand at attention. Few people obeyed at first, but they learned. At one time I sent a company of soldiers out to enforce the orders. Now everyone rises at the national hymn, and also when the President of the Republic passes. Don't you think that is tyranny?"

"Tyranny?" I repeated.

"Yes. I have been accused of not respecting liberty because of insisting that there is an obligation to respect

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our hymn—because I have wanted to instill a patriotic concept among my people.” He then went on to speak of a primer for children which he wrote, and with his own funds distributed to all the school children of the Dominican Republic. It is an extraordinary document, in simple, crisp words, outlining the duties of a citizen, and the need for peace, order, work and patriotism.

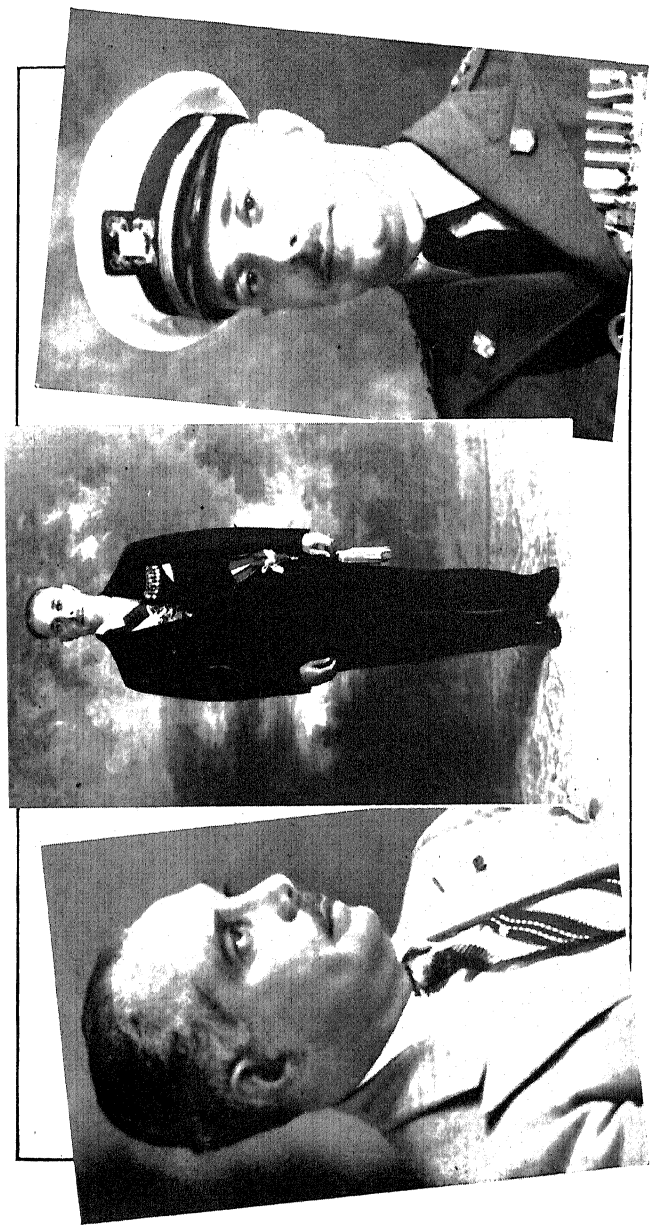
“What is the situation regarding education?” I asked.

“We are rapidly nearing a two-fold goal,” he answered. The first is universal education; already we have 100,000 students in our public schools. Every child now is receiving an education.

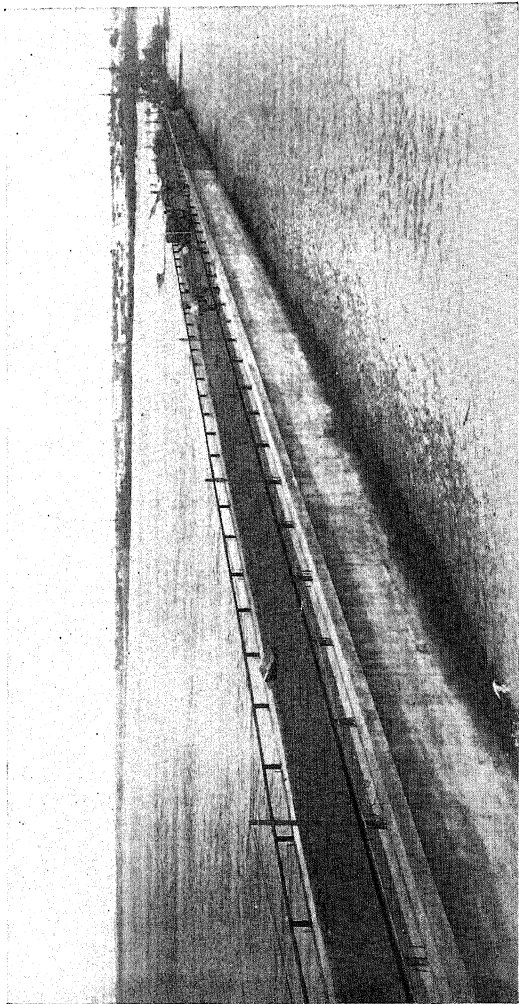
“The second goal is modern methods. Schools must be made practical laboratories for the study of practical subjects. For that reason we are concentrating on manual training schools. In the capital we have a school dedicated to domestic science. There girls learn to become homemakers, using every modern appliance. They learn cooking with electric stoves, modern methods of washing and ironing clothes, the care of children, and so on. More such schools are being built.”

I learned that new schools are going up all over the Republic, that the University is increasing its facilities, that modern educators are carrying out a surprising program of intensive activity.

Learning of all these accomplishments, I became curious about the philosophy of the president. In a world in which men seek power for their own pleasure, this man dedicates himself to his country; all his enormous determination and will power are concentrated on achieving benefits—for his fellow citizens.



Three excellent views of Generalissimo Rafael L. Trujillo, President of the Dominican Republic. This remarkable Chief of State has carried on a program of reconstruction unequalled anywhere.



The breakwater now under construction in the new port being created at Trujillo City. This gigantic undertaking, costing \$3,000,000, will enable ocean liners to dock at the wharves in a few months. Begun in 1935, the project will be completed during 1936. Like all other public works, financing is done entirely from current income, without loans. The foreign debt has never been in default, interest always being paid when due, and amortization according to agreement.

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“You are a man who has achieved great power,” I said. “Why have you done it? Do you enjoy possessing power? Is it something you like for its own sake?”

“No. I like power because it affords an opportunity to consecrate myself to the task I dreamed of as a child—creating happiness for a nation that has suffered untold woes. The administration before mine was one of complete wastefulness and mismanagement; more than eighty million dollars were spent with no accomplishments. No one was actually the leader of his country, though so-called leaders were everywhere. One journalist wrote that we had no leadership because we had too many leaders. Seeing such a situation, I knew it could be changed. I decided that our nation needed a strong man—strong enough to impose discipline and order: discipline in the government itself, among the workers, among all the people.”

“But is there not the danger in that type of government that if the strong man ends his career, the nation is thrown into chaos?”

“No, for a man is strong by the public support he wins and by the discipline with which he fills his people—and such discipline remains. If I have been strong, it is because of the support of my whole country. When my term ends, the party and the nation will not make a mistake in selecting a good candidate to succeed me, for they will choose a man who dedicates himself to his country.”

“What do you think of democracy?”

“The world, in thinking of democracy, does not realize that it consists of two separate things. The first aspect is that of equality—equality and justice for all citizens. In

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this I believe, because without this phase of democracy no country could be happy nor progress. The other aspect is that in which everyone in a nation decides what it shall do—and frankly, as an ideal it is magnificent, but I have not yet seen a country in which the inhabitants are sufficiently developed to use these rights in the best way. That day will come. Our Constitution guarantees a democratic and representative government, and I observe this as a sacred duty. Our people enjoy every right guaranteed by our Constitution and laws.”

“You have been teaching patriotism. As you knew, there is much controversy over nationalism. What is your opinion of nationalism?”

“My understanding of true nationalism is this: making your country great and its inhabitants happy without excluding anyone of any other nationality. Extreme nationalism, like all extremes, is vicious. I believe in a national spirit as an essential in making a country great, in giving impulse to national progress, in aiding a nation to take advantage of its natural resources, but without exclusion to outsiders if they come and offer cooperation in our national work, for their efforts are as valuable as are those of our own citizens.”

“And how about enemies within a country?”

“In our case there have been enemies who have left here and made attacks from foreign shores. But no matter what they have done, if they want they can be useful. Several times I have stated that all of those who have been away, even if they have tried to discredit their country, may return with the greatest freedom if they are willing to work where they may be useful, so they may

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really do something for their country. The Government has stood ready to pay their expenses back to the Dominican Republic."

"What plans have you for the future?" I asked.

"I am making plans now for the period beginning in January, 1936. I have two years and eight months more in my second term as President, and I want to carry out every possible piece of work in a little more than two years, so that we shall have time free for the new election, and so that the new President to be elected can make and carry out his own plans."

The President then showed me the careful plans made during past years, with an amazing list of public projects completed. Then he showed another list of projects now under way and to be undertaken. Financing such projects seems impossible to one not familiar with the iron determination of President Trujillo.

With President Trujillo work is a passion. It is his own life, and he demands it of others. His entire philosophy of life is bound up with work. This philosophy he expressed eloquently in an address on March 30, 1935, at an industrial and agricultural exposition, in these words:

"I have used the word work, and it seems to me that this one word gives this celebration here a sublime character and expresses the highest possible thought, for it is the keystone of every action of man which dignifies and elevates him. . . I am happy because this is a festival of bread, a festival of products of the soil, a review of science and skill—a celebration of workers, of men who are living my political beliefs by converting the sweat of their brows into food . . . for my conviction, as your

leader and as a man, is that to govern means to nourish.

“To govern means to nourish: to nourish the body, to nourish the heart, to nourish the soul, to nourish the mind, to nourish the spirit, to nourish the conscience; a synthesis of action which makes me try every hour to complete some act of government.”

The president, I found, is also a strong believer in religion—and religious freedom. Answering my questions about it, he said: “An overwhelming majority of Dominicans are Catholics, and Catholicism is the state religion. But all other religions are respected, and no limitations are placed on them by the government.”

The president's views on the rights of women interested me greatly. “I believe,” he said, “in the rights of women and their liberty. I want women to have the same political rights that men have, and I support the feminist movement. Among my future plans is a constitutional amendment giving women equal political rights with men.”

“Do you think women are fundamentally equal to men?” I asked.

“When woman has equal preparation, equal training in exercising her rights, she is entirely the equal of man in every way.”

The rest of my conversation was regarding the personal life and thoughts of this remarkable man. He works from 12 to 15 hours a day, with little recreation or exercise, yet he has maintained perfect health. He plays no games of any kind. Horseback riding is his great diversion, and he finds that his thoughts grow clearer on a



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long canter. His delight is to take a few days off, and to tour the country on horseback, visiting workers and farmers in their homes, studying their lives, getting acquainted with them.

As a social figure the president is surprising. His personal life is rigid and austere. He neither drinks nor smokes. Yet he enjoys dancing and friendly conversation.

Because his work occupies all his thoughts, he finds little time for reading other than newspapers and reviews. History is his favorite subject in literature; when we had our talk, he had just completed reading the messages and papers of Woodrow Wilson, a man whom he vastly admires.

As our conversation came to a close, I thought of powerful men of history, of Napoleon and Caesar, and I realized that great men are cast in the same mold. Is it the destiny of some to achieve power, or is it chance? I asked President Trujillo.

"I am sure there is something in destiny," he answered, "for there are forces outside of us. But destiny does not shape men's careers. The efforts and decisions of a man himself make him or break him. I am not superstitious."

Then he smiled, and ended the interview with his characteristic note of determination and supreme confidence.

"There is luck in life, of course. Chance plays its part. Destiny has its effect. But for me those things do not matter. I believe in them, but I am not affected by them."

LAWRENCE DE BESAUULT



PART ONE:  
PRESIDENT TRUJILLO



# Chapter I

## EARLY DAYS

HISTORY teaches us that there are certain places that seem predestined in some strange way to act as the theatre of great events, and that some of them are invariably favorable to one side in a struggle, and others favorable to the other. The author of *Venezuela Heroica* points out, for example, that in the war for liberty waged by Bolivar against Spain, the plains of Carabobo seemed to have cemented an alliance with him; repeatedly his armies engaged in battle there with the defenders of Spain, and always emerged triumphant. In exchange, whenever Puerto was the scene of bloody engagements, the gods of war gave the laurels of victory to the Spaniards. Heroism on both sides seemed to be of no avail. Destiny insisted on maintaining its own preferences regarding the outcome of all combats.

The Dominican Republic bears out in its own history this same strange design. Its soldiers of liberty triumphed in two separate wars twenty years apart in the same locations. Both in the war of independence of 1844 and the war to regain independence from 1863 to 1865, victory came nearly always in the regions comprehended by Las Carreras, Santome and La Canela, or in the city of Santiago de los Caballeros, where on February 27, 1844, the Dominicans first established their independence with the ringing declaration of "the firm and imperishable determination to be free and independent, should it

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cost their lives and their property, and no menace will be capable of weakening this resolution.”

In later years the history of the Dominican Republic has followed the same course.

The city of San Cristobal has played its part through the years in the history of the nation. The first Constitution of the Republic was signed there; from its streets and homes the first troops of the new nation sallied to receive their baptism of fire and glory in the city of Azua. It was the cradle of many heroes of the crusades for freedom. And on October 24, 1891, was born there the extraordinary man who was to become later the re-constructor of the nation, bearing the highest honors which his fellow-citizens could confer on him: Generalissimo Doctor Rafael Leonidas Trujillo Molina, President of the Dominican Republic and Benefactor of the Nation. He was the fourth child of Don Jose Trujillo Valdez and Doña Julia Molina Chevalier.

He comes of illustrious stock. His grandparents were, on his father's side, Don Jose Trujillo Monagas and Doña Silveria Valdez, and on his mother's side, Don Pedro Molina and Doña Luisa Ercina Chevalier. The Trujillos, of pure Spanish blood and led by the conquering spirit of the Spaniards, gave themselves body and soul to the task of conquering and colonizing the New World. One of them, a tenacious leader against the Cuban revolutionists, in the war with Spain, is a great example of this strong race. The Chevaliers are French, descended from Joseph Chevalier, Marquis of Philbourou, who accompanied Leclerc, the husband of Pauline Bonaparte, from France, and whose mission was to

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pacify and subdue the island in the name of his chief and brother-in-law, Napoleon.

The childhood of Rafael Leonidas Trujillo was as peaceful and quiet as the life itself of the town where he was born, which has about two thousand inhabitants now and had half that number then. His family was proud, humble, and his first years were spent in a home typical of those in the countryside. He learned to read and write at the knees of his grandmother, Doña Luisa Ercina Chevalier, a gifted woman who had inherited the traditional French culture, and who in her spare moments taught her numerous offspring to cultivate their minds. When her lessons became insufficient for the child's mind, he attended with his brothers the school of Don Pablo Barinas.

But his early education was not limited to schools, and in those days education was expensive. The erudition that later made him such a talented speaker and thoughtful writer came through his own arduous efforts. These earlier years accomplished another purpose; they laid the foundation for his devotion to hard and unremitting work, his love of order, his power of self-discipline, his realization that accomplishment comes through one's own efforts. Those early struggles for an education were a powerful force that helped to mold the man into an amazing driving force.

From infancy the boy lived in an atmosphere of patriotic fervor; the sufferings of his country, the need of a new order, became paramount in his mind. From the beginning of the independence of the Dominican Republic in 1844 until his own time—indeed, until 1930, when he became President—there were destitution and near-

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chaos. Weak, ineffectual, often corrupt, leaders had ravaged the country, so that there was little progress. Within the boy's mind formed the great resolution to give his efforts to save his country—to establish it as a powerful nation with peace, order and prosperity. This resolution became a passion, and is today the dominating force of General Trujillo's career.

His first job seemed very remote from his ultimate purpose, but it had its beneficial effects. He became a telegraph operator in his native town of San Cristobal. There he mastered the details of his work, displayed his natural talents, and eventually was transferred to the capital of the Republic. Through this period he trained himself carefully for the future, always mindful of his childhood ambition.

As he grew into manhood he began to orient himself to the world, and in the inquietude of the spirit of adolescence began the formation of the man of the future.

He was neither a sentimentalist nor a skeptic. He knew how to love, and he knew the value of solitude. He liked to withdraw into himself, studying and preparing for the struggles of the years to come, and building confidence within himself.

Inheriting the qualities of leadership of his ancestors, he felt desires within him to go forward, to distinguish himself, to be a leader on his own account. From his childhood he succeeded in this; his companions unquestioningly accepted him as their chief, even in the games they played.

Perhaps the greatest accomplishment of those formative years was the acquiring of the habit of work and of



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a desire for it that amounted almost to a passion. The young Trujillo repulsed idleness like a terrible vice, and threw himself ardently into everything he undertook, always looking for suitable fields for the exercise of his extraordinary faculties. He liked the company of workers, whom he found the only models he considered worthy to follow, and his tastes led him to take a deep interest in agriculture and industry.

His companions and his elders were surprised and delighted by this youngster, whom the fatigue of no job seemed to tire, for whom no road seemed too long, nor any hill too steep. His duty was his religion; and intelligent activity was the ritual of his religion.

With these rare characteristics he passed through the years of adolescence into manhood.



# Chapter II

## The Army



## Chapter II

### THE ARMY

IT WAS the fortune of young Trujillo to live in an era in the Dominican Republic in which hot political passions were dominant, and made their effect felt everywhere. Carlos F. Morales L. had been succeeded in the Presidency of the Republic by General Ramon Caceres, in a whirlwind series of changes. Morales, after his tragic end, was followed by Don Eladio Victoria, who was replaced by Monsignor Adolfo A. Nouel.

Monsignor Nouel's resignation a year later brought the ascendancy to Jose Bordas Valdez, who was overthrown, with Dr. Ramon Baez chosen as Provisional President. Soon after this, Don Juan Isidro Jimenez was elected to the Presidency, and then was compelled to resign. The period that followed was that of the military occupation of the Dominican Republic by the United States under a government presided over by Dr. Francisco Henriquez y Carvajal. Mixed in this bubbling cauldron of violence and change were five revolutions and numberless minor revolts.

During all this period young Trujillo's sympathies might have been attracted to various leaders in whom he thought he saw incarnated the best ideas for the national welfare, without upsetting orderly processes; but experience taught him that this did not seem possible. As he reflected, he realized that there must be an adequate basis for an orderly state, and that this basis was

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a well prepared, equipped and disciplined army, which would stand firmly in defense of the stability of national institutions. He saw that industry and agriculture, above all, needed the basis that could be provided by soldiers, so that their work might be done.

It was perhaps in this way that military inclinations arose in him. The future of his country was his obsession.

He entered the National Military School at Haina, near Trujillo City (then Santo Domingo), as a cadet, and passing through a brilliant period as a student, graduated in 1919 as a second lieutenant. At school he distinguished himself by his consecration to his duties, by his efficiency, his organizing spirit and his strong character, to such an extent that his teachers picked him out as a future leader. The fervor for doing what is to be done quickly, firmly and completely was as characteristic of him then as now.

Once with the armed forces of the nation, he continued his determined progress, and promotions were rapid. In the space of five years he rose from second lieutenant to commanding officer of the Dominican National Police, which at that time was the force substituted for a national army.

In 1924 he had passed through the grades of first lieutenant, captain and major. The American military occupation had been in force until then, but this ended when General Horacio Vasquez became President. It was soon afterward that Major Trujillo was promoted to a coloneley, and given charge of the Dominican National Police.

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Here was the realization of an opportunity to accomplish what the clear-headed young thinker had decided was the supreme immediate necessity of his country—the establishment of a really adequate armed body of men. He threw himself with all his energy into the duties of the post that had been assigned to him.

With an insuperable spirit; with an energy that knew no fatigue; with an efficiency and a spirit of personal sacrifice that are rare, he conducted a work of coordination and organization with splendid results.

The first step was the breaking of all private political affiliations between the force or individual officers, and political parties. The roster of officers was stripped of all undesirable elements, so that the force should respond to the object of its creation. Rigid discipline was established, permitting no vacillations. But those who were faithful were given a new sense of security and protection in doing their duty.

Quickly Colonel Trujillo became the hero of the officers and men. Recognizing his strength and his justice, they came to love him. He was obeyed without question.

Soon the Government realized that the maintenance of an army is one of the attributes of a sovereign state. Accordingly the Dominican National Police was converted into the Dominican National Army, under the immediate command of Colonel Trujillo; and as time passed, he was elevated to the rank of Brigadier General.

His work of organization continued uninterrupted. Every ounce of strength and energy which he possessed went into the work to which he had consecrated himself. Political officeholders might and did spend time in diver-

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sions, even to the extent that the President absented himself for a time from the country; but in Ozama Fortress, General Trujillo remained day and night, apparently never even sleeping nor resting, taking no recreation, eternally and vigilantly guarding public order, becoming a bulwark of government stability and tranquility of the people.

It was during this period that the affection in which he was held by officers and men led to a request from them that the Government authorize them to present their chief with a medal of honor; this permission was granted, and the medal was wrought and presented with enthusiastic demonstrations.

By this time the fame of this military figure had reached other shores. General Trujillo's work in tactics and in organization was discussed abroad. Foreign decorations began to gleam from his breast. The series of honors, which have through the years ascended to tremendous proportions, even to the naming of the capital of the Republic after him, began at this time, and he quickly showed by his attitude the remarkable strength of character that he has. Where others might have become proud, arrogant, careless, he did not modify the normal actions of his life a bit. He maintained the same rigid adherence to his duty that characterized him, and the same affectionate attitude with his soldiers, who felt like his children.

Thus he created the National Dominican Army, disciplined it, built it, made it an efficient and adequate unit for the maintenance of order. He was proud of the army, but never faltered in the task of continual improvement.



## THE ARMY

But the soldier was first of all a citizen. The army was to him an instrument for peace and order, for better government, not a unit prepared for eventual wars. That in their realms, other officials of the government should also be working for the welfare of the people was his hope and expectation. Occasionally he directed his gaze at the men in power. What comforting or disquieting sights met his eyes? We shall see.



# Chapter III

## The Rise to the Presidency



## Chapter III

### THE RISE TO THE PRESIDENCY

FOR twenty years a large part of the Dominican people had hoped to see General Horacio Vasquez elected President of the Republic. From the time he had commanded the revolution of July, 1899, they had pinned their faith in him. After the turbulence of the intervening years he at last became President in 1924, with the ending of the American military occupation.

He was elected with the slogan of "Order and Honor." He promised reconstruction of the nation. But once in office, he met insuperable difficulties, not the least of which was his own physical condition.

The administration of General Vasquez quickly demonstrated four primary weaknesses. The first was his advanced age, which made him quite a different figure from the Vasquez of earlier days. The second was his bad health. The third was the circumstance of his having been for twenty years the leader of one of many political groups in battles that were often sanguinary, and that developed enmities impossible to overcome. The fourth was that to win the election his party had made an alliance with a rival group headed by Don Federico Velasquez y Hernandez, including an agreement to divide political offices between the two groups.

This division of the spoils of office began at the top, and continued to the bottom. Thus, Vasquez was elected

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President, and Velasquez was made Vice-President. There were Vasquez senators and deputies, and Velasquez senators and deputies. The cabinet was similarly divided. What made the matter serious was that, except for the similarity in the names of the leaders—Vasquez and Velasquez—and the temporary truce for the purpose of winning the election, there was little in common between the two groups, but rather a determined hostility.

The situation was further complicated by the fact that a third party, the Patriotic Coalition of Citizens, under the leadership of the eminent patriot and jurist, Francisco J. Peynado, had elected twelve senators and a number of deputies, giving it considerable power.

In these circumstances it was almost impossible for the Vasquez party to muster a majority for any measures it wished passed, without a most difficult work of conciliation and propitiation of rival factions.

From the moment of its first session, the National Congress bred jealousies, intrigues, and their consequent disruptive tendencies. To win votes Vasquez was compelled privately to make private concessions to members of other factions; at this, the Vasquez men grew jealous, for they felt favors were being granted to outsiders which were denied to them, and they in turn became as unruly as the other factions.

The result of all this was a policy of compromise and unbridled license. Private interests were placed ahead of public necessities. The welfare of the nation was forgotten in the struggle for power and for gain.

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No method could be found to equalize receipts and expenditures in the Government. As a repercussion of the world economic crisis following the world war, receipts decreased, and in the hands of those dominated by greed, rapacity and carelessness, expenditures leaped to new figures. What could have saved the situation was sanity and strength on the part of the President—a firm will that would conquer all difficulties—but precisely here Vasquez was weak. Age and physical infirmities made him irresolute and unable to act, and perhaps fearful that worse trouble might follow efforts to end bad conditions, for the enemy was by this time encamped in his own administration.

As the term of Vasquez spun itself out, the question of the next President arose, and added to the already existing difficulties. President Vasquez started the ball rolling by announcing definitely that he would not be a candidate for reelection, and impulsively recommended a member of his party as the candidate for the next Presidency.

At once a clamor arose; other possible candidates felt themselves cheated, both in and out of the Vasquez party. Others, who were profiting by the Vasquez regime, insisted he must not leave the Presidency.

Such struggles for power are common in all nations; and the fierce desire to remain in power when once there is almost universal. It is not surprising that this should have occurred in the Dominican Republic.

The final settlement was the harbinger of more trouble. An interpretation of the constitution was secured by which the presidential term was extended from

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four to six years, thus keeping Vasquez in office for another two years. Those two years, from 1928 to 1930, saw the end of the old order in the Dominican Republic.

The immediate effect of this extension was an open break in the relations of the Vasquez party and that of Velasquez, who resigned as Vice-President as a protest against what had occurred. He had been considered as a candidate for the Presidency in the event of an election. Dr. Jose Dolores Alfonseca, a sagacious moderate, replaced Velasquez as Vice-President.

The days that followed were bitter with strife. Indecision, blundering, weakness dominated the administration of affairs. In the political arena, already campaigns were being carried on for the next Presidency. It was understood that Dr. Alfonseca would be the candidate to succeed Vasquez, but later it was announced that Vasquez would be a candidate to succeed himself, causing the Alfonseca adherents to feel cheated.

Further complications came from the active hostility of Velasquez to President Vasquez, and his own candidacy for the Presidency; from the formation of a new party by Rafael Estrella Ureña, supposedly with presidential aspirations on his part; from the activities of General Desiderio Arias, who constituted an unknown peril; and from others of varying importance, all of whom opposed the Government.

During all these maneuvers, the lot of the people grew steadily more pitiable. The nation had no idea where it was going, and had lost confidence in every one of the political leaders. The burden of a new foreign loan had been thrown on the shoulders of the people, and they



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feared new burdens. The people watched the men in whom they had put their faith, whirling about in an orgy of vacillation, mistakes or crimes. They were filled with dread of what the future might hold, with its forebodings of ruin and complete anarchy.

In these critical moments, President Vasquez, more than seventy years old, weakened under the physical strain. He developed an illness requiring him to leave the country for a major surgical operation abroad.

With the President gone, the rumblings of the coming tempest grew louder. Timid glances of anxiety were directed at Ozama Fortress; but there General Trujillo, although his feelings as a citizen were outraged, sternly continued in his path and engaged to sustain the unsustainable.

Nor was the situation bettered when President Vasquez, his operation over, returned to his country. If before his spent energy had not been sufficient to check the disaster, it was less so now, for he had to direct public affairs from his bed, surrounded by ambitions and intrigues. Even with his helplessness so obvious, he refused to relinquish his ambitions for reelection, not sensing that the faith of the people in him was irretrievably lost.

Finally popular ire burst forth. On February 20th, 1930, a movement to overthrow the Government began in the city of Santiago de los Caballeros; quickly the people took control of the city, surprising the military garrison. Soon the movement extended throughout the region of the Cibao, and headed for the capital of the Republic.

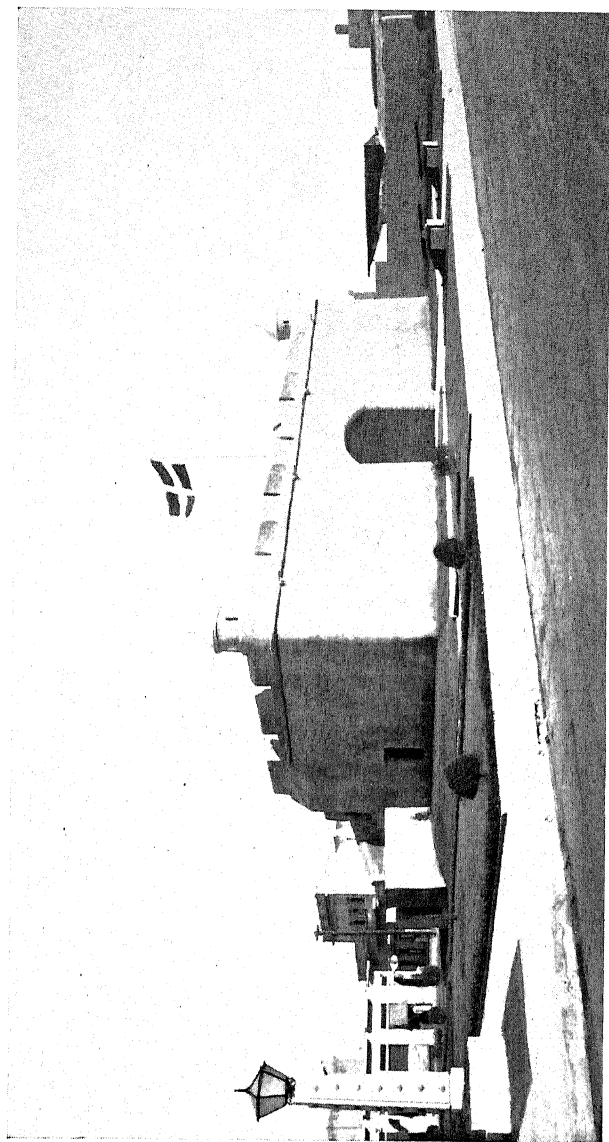
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General Trujillo remained at his post, waiting to carry out the orders of the government, but these were vacillating and confused. The President appeared to be terror-stricken by the menace of the throngs marching toward the capital. He issued orders, then revoked them a few minutes later. He hurriedly decided to resist the invaders with force, then changed his mind. The basic disorder that had characterized government operations throughout his administration raged still in this crucial moment.

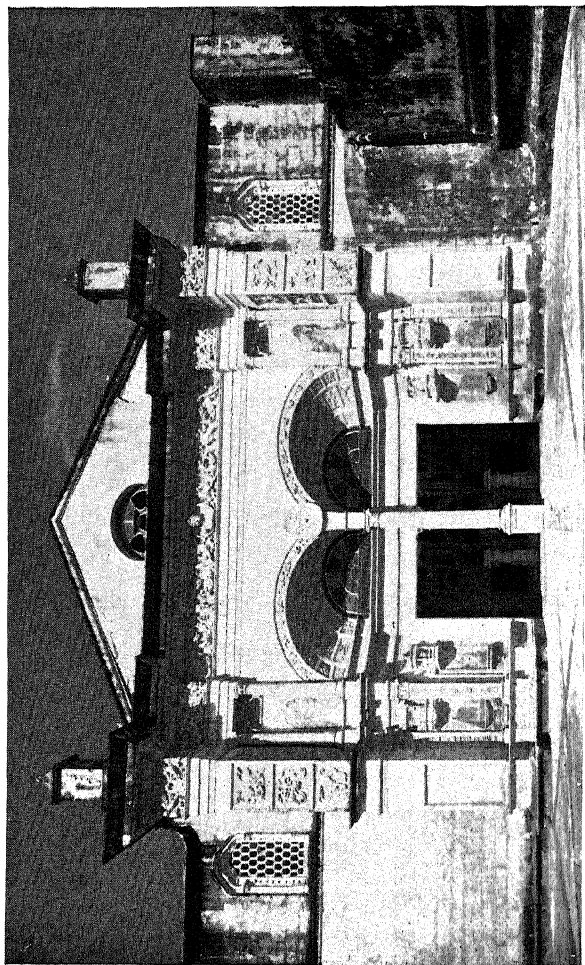
The result was that the revolutionary movement reached the city and entered it without violence. The President rushed to the American Legation for refuge. Once there, he changed his mind, and sped to Ozama Fortress. Later he changed his mind once more, and returned to the Presidential Mansion.

The head of the revolutionary movement was Rafael Estrella Ureña, for some time one of the enemies of the President, but before that an intimate friend. Suddenly the President invited Ureña for a conference. Then, amid general amazement, he appointed Ureña Secretary of State of the Interior and Police. This done, he and the Vice-President resigned, automatically making Ureña Provisional President until the next Presidential election, under a constitutional provision.

Thus occurred and triumphed one of the most peculiar revolutions in history—a march on the capital and immediate submission without resistance by the President. Only posterity will be able to decide if this came from sympathy with Ureña on the part of the President, weakness on his own part, or simple desperation.



The famous Puerta del Conde, or Count's Gate, rebuilt by the Count of Penalva in the walls of ancient Santo Domingo to commemorate his victory over English invaders in 1655. It was the spot where Dominican independence was declared on February 27, 1844, and has since been known as the Bastion 27 de Febrero.



The Cathedral at Trujillo City. This is the most remarkable of the historic buildings here, and the oldest church edifice in use in the western world. Its construction began in 1511. Its interior imitates a palm grove. There are three vast naves and fifteen chapels. In the main chapel rest the remains of Columbus.

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General Trujillo, who had taken no part in the revolution either in resisting or abetting it, resigned his post as head of the army and retired to his home.

The revolutionary movement had brought unity among many groups. These groups, realizing that the day of professional politicians was over, visited General Trujillo and convinced him that he should be a candidate for the Presidency. As candidate for Vice-President Ureña was selected.

Vasquez had retired from the Presidency, but his party carried on. Amid much confusion a candidate was finally chosen, the head of the Velasquez group, which for two years had bitterly opposed the President. As a running mate for Velasquez, a Vasquez favorite was chosen, a man named Angel Morales. Morales was a man who had not been a leader in his party, whose accomplishments had never brought him leadership, and who was totally inexperienced as a leader of the people.

The election was an overwhelming victory for General Trujillo. On August 16th, 1930, the new President took his oath of office, and a new era began for the Dominican Republic.



# Chapter IV

## The Presidency





## Chapter IV

### THE PRESIDENCY

FOR ANYONE, except a man of the stamp of General Trujillo, the situation facing him as he stepped into the Presidency would have been overwhelming. There was only one auspicious circumstance, which was the faith of the people in the new President.

First of all, the Government treasury was exhausted. Obligations were piled high, including interest and amortization on the foreign debt. The government itself was riddled with excessive costs of operation, graft, red-tape, confusion and inefficiency. Politicians had been entrenched in power for years, and did not expect to lose that power.

The economic state of the nation was deplorable. Agricultural production was low, industry was almost nonexistent, unemployment was widespread. Highways were bad, or altogether lacking. Communication and transportation in the Republic were difficult, due to an absence of bridges, roads, telegraph and postal service.

The errors of past administrations had accentuated in the nation the effects of the world crisis, to the point that it seemed impossible to continue complying with the obligations of the foreign debt, and at the same time care for the necessities of the country. And as if that were not a heavy enough burden on the shoulders of the new leader, a frightful hurricane on September 3, eighteen

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days after the inauguration, struck the capital and the surrounding country, causing 2,000 deaths, sending more than 8,000 injured to improvised hospitals, impoverishing rich and poor alike in a few hours, persuading many foreign residents to decide to leave the country whose future had become so dark, making the streets of the city impassable, bringing ruin to public edifices, destroying the bridge over the Ozama River, bringing everywhere sorrow, consternation and tragedy.

President Trujillo struggled personally, and at the risk of his life, to bring succor to the victims. He appeared everywhere, directing the work of salvage, extending a fatherly hand to the needy, dictating the steps necessary for protection of life and property, completely indifferent to the personal perils surrounding him.

Speedily, provisional hospitals were established. Food and shelter were provided for the homeless and destitute. Anti-typhoid inoculation of the entire population was accomplished. Large numbers of bodies of the dead found in the ruins were cremated to prevent epidemics. The removal of debris, and a general cleaning program, were carried out.

In all this work, the National Red Cross gave its valuable cooperation and direction was assumed by President Trujillo. Red Cross representatives from abroad, society women of the capital, the medical body of the Dominican Republic, foreign professional men, emissaries of friendly governments, and other individuals all worked heroically.

The immediate emergency over, President Trujillo commenced the rebuilding of an entire city to replace the

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ruins that had been Santo Domingo. New streets were laid, wider and better than the old ones. New homes, buildings, parks rose quickly. President Trujillo stimulated everyone with his words of encouragement; his voice and his example persuaded the entire populace to join the movement to create a new city, and the work was carried on rapidly. Fallen spirits were raised again and normal life began once more.

A tremendous change in orientation and in government trends took place. While not only the preceding administration, but most of those in the history of the nation had placed private and political considerations above public welfare in importance, President Trujillo worked solely for the reconstruction of the Republic, its progress and its general well being.

Yet there remained obdurate malcontents who desired to ruin the new administration, who plotted in the shadows, and headed by a few disturbers, attempted to resurrect the past. President Trujillo answered this active hostility with conciliatory gestures, and only when persuasion and generosity were insufficient to save the situation did he employ the force of the army to crush incipient revolts.

Peace has never been an end with with President Trujillo, but an indispensable medium for accomplishment. The dream of the boy, the realization of the young man, the active plan of the executive, were all the same. Not from a desire to maintain himself in power, but in order to assure the stability of national institutions, peace was achieved by the President—a peace that made possible the reconstruction of the nation.

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A year passed, and on August 15th, 1931, the representatives of the political groups who had united to support President Trujillo's candidacy, met in a great assembly with many other elements from other groups, and decided to drop permanently all their former differences. They organized under the leadership of President Trujillo, a strong political party called the Dominican Party, the name indicating that no distinctions are made between varying old political affiliations, and that President Trujillo opens his arms to everyone who believes in the slogan, "Rectitude, Liberty, Work."

One of the first qualities that leaders should possess is firmness of character. It is not sufficient to desire the right course—but there must be sufficient determination to follow it without discouragement. Virtue itself is meaningless if it is not a practice as well as a mental concept. Many splendid figures in Dominican political life have failed through their lack of strength of character. President Trujillo is not only a man of good intentions, but also a magnificent example of a citizen of strong moral fibre, who knows no weaknesses.

He extends to his friends a protecting hand; but he simply cannot conceive that any one has the right to fail in complying with his obligations. He works himself and he demands work from others. He is loyal and he demands loyalty. He is efficient, and he demands efficiency. When he finds weakness impossible to correct in any public servant, automatically that servant loses his post and the possibility of service.

President Trujillo is a lover of liberty, but he comprehends that the exercise of liberty requires the conserving of order, as the only medium in which it can function,

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without dangers for itself and for national institutions. This is not a new feeling, of course. In every country attacks and threats of the use of force are met by corresponding force, and all transgressions and political crimes are opposed by sanction in law and in justice; and it is not strange that the same thing should be true in the Dominican Republic.

A policy of firmness does not exclude, however, the use of generosity after any trouble has been ended. When President Trujillo believes that there is repentance and a desire to change on the part of the guilty, he uses the power of pardon granted him by the constitution of the Republic, and his arms open to welcome those who have been converted to the cause of justice.

No one is asked where he came from—simply where he is going. All of the past that was not worthy is forgotten; the present and the future are all that matter.

Indisputable facts which prove this are the guarantees enjoyed by those who do not conspire against order; the cooperation with the present administration of individuals who were active in the former administration; and the circumstance that for the first time in the history of the Dominican Republic a former President, General Horacio Vasquez, lived tranquilly until his death in his native country, without trouble and surrounded with every protection, and made cordial visits to President Trujillo. The Government declared three days of national mourning at the time of his death.

Besides this, former leaders of various political parties hold public office at the present time, some of them prominent posts. Among those close to the President are

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the nephews and other relations of former President Vasquez, a son of former President Don Juan Isidro Jimenez, and a son-in-law of former President Federico Velasquez y Hernandez. To those familiar with the intense hatreds and jealousies of former days in the Dominican Republic, this unity is an outstanding and even amazing attribute of President Trujillo's administration. Those who remain distant do so because of their own will—not because they are repulsed. Those punished in the courts are not tried for past offenses, but for present actions.

Doctor Jose Dolores Alfonseca, Vice-President of the Republic in the administration of Vasquez, died on foreign shores, and President Trujillo hastened to bring his body back to his native country, and to afford it appropriate honors, because of the high post with which he was invested. The Government preceded the funeral procession taking him to his last resting place, and a Government official pronounced the panegyric, and the friends of the deceased pronounced eulogies on him with the approval of the President, and covered his grave with flowers. A little while later the noble initiative of President Trujillo sought and obtained from the municipal government the naming of one of the most important streets of Trujillo City after him.

At the same time, the remains of Dr. Francisco J. Peynado, illustrious political figure, who had employed his efforts and a good part of his fortune in patriotic labors culminating in the so-called Plan of Evacuation for the convention with the United States of America, and whose efforts helped to remove the American forces from Dominican territory and returned to it a full ex-

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ercise of its sovereignty, were brought to the Dominican Republic. And President Trujillo, great admirer of legitimate national glories and jealous guardian of those glories, sought and obtained from the National Congress a decree honoring the exalted deceased; he preceded personally the act of burial in the so-called Chapel of the Immortals—pantheon of the creators of the national independence—and pronounced an eloquent eulogistic and patriotic discourse, at the closing of the niche where this great man would forever repose.

Dr. Francisco J. Peynado, although he was not a Vasquez partisan, nor a Velasquez man, had the post of a Secretaryship of State in the Vasquez regime, until his resignation, although he had not been connected with the damages done by the administration, and had kept free of politics.

Several proclamations have been made by President Trujillo regarding the few enemies who rushed to foreign countries to spread propaganda against his administration, and to attempt to foment revolution. Among these, the proclamation of July 23, 1932, well illustrates the generous and patriotic attitude of the great leader of the Dominican people. It follows:

“As the day approaches which will be the second anniversary of my inauguration as President of the nation, and at the same time the sixty-ninth anniversary of our political Restoration, I want to take advantage of this historic opportunity to offer ways of restoring their normal civic functions to those fellow citizens who, with or without subversive intent, have sped to foreign shores to carry out fantastic schemes of persecution of my administration.

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“My administration stands solidly, with extraordinary efforts realized to stabilize national finances at a point which has made the Government the object of enthusiastic eulogies on the part of political and intellectual figures of recognized international importance, whose opinions have been made public in accredited journals, this being, therefore, a definite accomplishment in gaining foreign credit, which has been recognized and acclaimed by recent illustrious visitors to our country; with all its public activities controlled by an administrative force that leaves nothing to be desired in its honesty and zeal, in my ardent desire to reconstruct completely Dominican political and social life; with national peace assured, not only by the guarantee of a well-organized army, such as the Republic never before had, equipped with the most modern war material, but also by the confidence of the people in my administration and a widespread aversion to any attack on the public order; with the backing of the Dominican Party, whose head I am, which constitutes the only strong and decisive political force in the nation. Under such advantageous conditions for the nation, the following invitation to the prudence and reflection of certain compatriots, blinded by error, cannot be interpreted in any way except as my civic desire to associate the national happiness, which has grown from the date of my inauguration, with the entire nation in the desire for solidarity with the majority that placed me in my post.

“Filled, therefore, with patriotic sincerity, I proclaim with the authority of my high investiture as President of the Dominican Republic, that the Dominicans absent today from the nation for political reasons, what-



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ever the causes may have been which motivated their voluntary exile, are free to return to the nation to devote themselves to honest work, to the exploitation of our fountains of wealth, needed in the dynamic activities of all good Dominicans, and they shall have all the guarantees and security provided by our Constitution and laws. They will find my arms, as a soldier and as a citizen, who knows no guile nor deceit, open fraternally to embrace them before the altar of our country, for whose security and honor my life is dedicated.'"

Along with his program of pacification of the nation, of quieting of aroused passions, of nation-wide reconciliation, President Trujillo developed from the first moment a vast program of reorganization of the government, of reconstruction of the nation itself, and of galvanizing and directing all the living forces for good in the country.

As has been noted before, the treasury was exhausted when he entered office. Resolutely he set himself to the task of remedying this condition. Expenditures were drastically cut, until their total was in accord with national income. By the complete elimination of graft and waste, more was accomplished with reduced budgets than ever before. Income was augmented by suitable means. The credit of the Government remained intact, for the payment of interest on the foreign debt was never postponed—an almost unique record among nations of the world.

The story of what has happened to the Dominican Republic in the last five years is amazing beyond words. In every department of activity there has been healthy and widespread progress. In later chapters we shall consider

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one by one the various accomplishments of the Trujillo administration.

In these accomplishments are found the real measure of the President, for they are the most beautiful part of his life. The popularity of the President is tremendous, for not a citizen of the Dominican Republic has failed to feel some direct benefit from the progress of the nation. This accounts for the really extraordinary tributes to him, such as the conferring upon him by the National Congress in 1934 of the honorary title of Benefactor of the Nation, and the renaming of the city of Santo Domingo in his honor, and the tremendous public manifestations in 1934 throughout the nation, clamoring for his re-election to the Presidency.

During the latter part of 1935, President Trujillo told a newspaper reporter of a wish he had to take a trip abroad for a rest—his first vacation in fourteen years. The reaction to the announcement in the newspapers was surprising, even to those knowing the sentiment of the people for their chief. Instantly consternation spread throughout the nation. All classes, natives and foreign residents, held spontaneous public demonstrations asking President Trujillo not to make the trip, saying that his country needs him, that he cannot be spared, that the mere possibility of his absence darkens the future. Such tributes as these are more than flowery statements—they are the expression of what is in the heart.

A symbol also eloquent of the admiration in which the Government of President Trujillo is held, is the number of decorations which he has received, of the highest rank. Among them are these: Grand Collar of the Order of the

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Liberator (Venezuelan); Collar of the Chilean Order of Merit (Chile); The Ribbon of the Order of the Republic (Spain); The Collar of the Order of the Aztec Eagle (Mexico); Great Cross of the Order of Isabela la Católica (Spain); Great Cross of the Order of Santo Sepulcro (Santa Sede); Great Cross of the Order of El Sol de Peru (Peru); Great Cross of the Order of Carlos Manuel Cespedes (Cuba); Great Cross of Honor and Merit of Haiti; Commander of the Crown of Italy; Commander of the Legion of Honor (France); Great Cross of the Order of Boyacá (Colombia); Medal of Military Merit of the Dominican Republic; Medal of the Pan American Society of the U. S. A.; Medal of the Ibero-American Institute of Hamburg.

Through the initiative of President Trujillo there was created, to honor outstanding services to the Republic or humanity, the Juan Pablo Duarte Order of Merit, of which, by virtue of the law establishing it, President Trujillo was named its supreme head, and was given the Great Cross which decorates his breast. The first person next to receive the Great Cross was His Excellency, Stenio Vincent, President of the Republic of Haiti, who received it on February 27, 1935, in the course of the visit he made to the Dominican Republic. The decoration of the order has also been granted, in various grades, to chiefs of states, ministers of foreign relations, diplomats on special missions, Professor Marion, and other distinguished personalities.

Over the ruins of the past, and among the splendors of the present, President Trujillo advances toward the future. The phantasms which have been created by ene-

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mies, who vent their passions in foreign countries, do not terrify him. He knows that even they will eventually want to cooperate for the sake of their country, and he awaits them, ready to accept their cooperation when they are ready.

He does not fear weakness, for he is strong as few men are strong; he does not fear committing injustices, for he is himself just; and he is sure that his work of reconstruction will continue, because he is animated by the spirit of the fathers of his country, and inherits their sacred and inextinguishable love for the nation that gave him life.

A summary of the progress of the Republic under the administration of President Trujillo follows:

At a time when the ominous clouds of war hover over Europe and Asia, and the great nations of the world talk of peace whilst some of them are girding for war, the small peaceful nations of the world lie unnoticed, unobserved and unrecognized; yet from many of them the larger, more powerful nations might well learn a lesson.

It was Belgium that taught the nations of the world a lesson during the World War. Belgium was the smallest, most unobtrusive and perhaps the least prepared of all the nations that fought in that conflict.

Today we have an historic nation in America, the Dominican Republic.

What could be more appropriate than that this nation should be one on which one of the greatest historic figures of all time first trod? In the peaceful City of Trujillo, capital of the Dominican Republic, is the tomb of Christopher Columbus.

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It is proper and fitting that the land where rest the remains of the discoverer of the New World should today be a beacon for the New World—a beacon for peace and progress, security and industry.

In six miles from La Vega, one of the most beautiful of the Dominican Republic, is the Cerro Santo, a precipitous hill, on the summit of which Columbus planted a great cross in 1493. In the City of Trujillo is the cathedral, the foundation stones of which were laid in the first years of the 16th century.

The tradition, the promise, the high hopes that Christopher Columbus emblazoned in his unforgettable discovery—those aspirations are the guiding lights for those who, today, are setting a standard for the world in the Dominican Republic. President Trujillo, young and victorious soldier, who has been overwhelmingly re-elected to carry on the basic American traditions—American in the broadest meaning of the New World—is determined that the distinction which history contrived to place in the Dominican Republic shall be unwaveringly defended.

Paradoxically, the Dominican Republic now exemplifying peace and industry, relies upon a military man to guide its destiny. President Trujillo has met the test of political leadership and thus combines the rare qualities of a brilliant soldier and an astute statesman.

Where in all the world is there a nation which, even in the face of unforeseen catastrophes, can boast of a surplus in its treasury for the year 1935? The Dominican Republic under the guidance of President Trujillo was able to do just that. Not everything that can be told

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about a nation can be told in terms of treasury surpluses, yet in these trying days a balanced budget is more than a sign of security and progress—it is a guarantee and a lesson.

President Trujillo has taken a leaf from the book of such great leaders as President Roosevelt. With determination to succeed, President Trujillo signed a contract for the construction of the harbor of Trujillo City, and the work is already under way. Within a few months the modern giant steamers that ply through the Caribbean Sea will have direct access into the port. President Trujillo's financial genius is best indicated by the fact that this improvement, which will cost \$3,000,000.00, is being executed without loans and is being paid out of the regular revenues of the Republic.

Visitors to Trujillo City, when their palatial vessels tie up at the newly constructed docks, will be confronted by the oldest existing settlement of the white men in the New World. Trujillo City was founded in 1496. It is deemed by experts to be the most perfect example of a Spanish colonial town of the 16th century. Surrounded by ancient walls and bastions, the city boasts streets that, in the main, are straight and intersect at right angles. The town was evidently not laid out indiscriminately. Trujillo's massive houses are built on a grand scale. They are made of stone with colored walls, pierced with huge doors and windows.

The cathedral, in the Spanish Renaissance style, containing the Columbus tomb, dates from 1512. The cell in which Christopher Columbus and his brother were confined by order of Bobadilla is still shown in the old

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fortress. Not far away is the palace of the Columbus family, now a ruin.

The port development of Trujillo City, which is in line with the progressive steps that have been taken in the great ports of the United States, will make more desirable than ever the visits of tourists from the Dominican Republic's great sister nation, the United States.

President Trujillo has recognized from the beginning the importance of public works in the development of his nation. He has constructed six magnificent bridges, new wireless stations, telephone lines, post office buildings, schools, irrigated zones and adequate roads.

The improvement of the Dominican Republic's railroads, the creation of new agricultural colonies, the vigorous campaign against malaria, the reduction of the public debt, the drive against illiteracy, these and a score of other activities are characteristic of the determination of President Trujillo to carry on the tradition of the New World.

The Dominican Republic, entirely aside from its vast historic significance, its matchless historic relics and its unparalleled natural beauty, is a land richly endowed with the resources that assure a firm national background.

The country exports tobacco, coffee, cacao, sugar, mahogany, logwood, cedar, satinwood, hides, honey, gum and wax. Among the gifts of nature to the Republic are platinum, gold, manganese, iron, copper, tin, antimony, opals and chalcedony. In the Neyba Valley are two remarkable hills, famous because they are composed of pure rock salt.

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The problems which confront the Dominican Republic are too little understood by the people of other nations. There is, for example, the recent boundary dispute between the Republic and Haiti. Other nations, under similar circumstances, might have been plunged into a catastrophic conflict. President Trujillo recognized the gravity of this situation. Though a military man himself, he did not resort to the sword. In cooperation with President Vincent, of Haiti, President Trujillo was able to effect a pacific and just settlement of his nation's differences with those of Haiti, and the two peoples now reside in amity and understanding.

So successful was this undertaking that this achievement was held up to all the Americas as an example of what should be done in the Chaco dispute between the Republics of Bolivia and Paraguay.

To residents of the United States the Dominican Republic does not perhaps figure as prominently in their minds as Cuba, yet as distances on the map go, the island shared by Haiti and the Dominican Republic is but a short journey from Cuba. Those who visit the West Indies, and who enjoy the glories of its climate, never fail to sing the praises of the glorious beauty and historic tradition of the Dominican Republic.

Paralleling the governmental efforts in the United States to support industry and agriculture, the Dominican Republic has initiated under the administration of President Trujillo a program for the production of rice. Three years ago this agricultural activity was almost non-existent. Today the production is at the rate of one million quintals (50,000 tons) a year.



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In order to stimulate industry, President Trujillo is initiating a public works program ranging from bridge and road construction to the erection of the long-planned Columbus Lighthouse. A concerted effort is being made throughout the country to develop, not only the physical prosperity of the Dominican Republic, but also the spiritual, scientific and artistic phases of its life.

The fullest advantage is being taken of scientific agricultural methods, and these are being taught to the people. Economic assistance is being given to literature, and publishing is encouraged by the recent free distribution of a civic primer intended to create a pride and an interest in the Republic by its people. Realizing the importance of sound municipal government, President Trujillo is devoting himself to economic reorganization of the municipalities.

The Dominican Republic's President has set for himself an ambitious program, but fortunately a program which has shown results step by step. President Trujillo believes that a nation so greatly endowed with natural resources, a perfect climate and people with the will to do has illimitable fields for accomplishment and improvement.

The ability to undertake a program of construction and development during a worldwide depression and still meet obligations is a tribute to any leader. To President Trujillo goes the credit for having achieved this.

Undersecretary of State William Phillips, in a statement in August, 1934, paid tribute to the Dominican Republic for complying with its economic obligations.

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Mr. Phillips told the Dominican Minister in Washington that he considered it a source of great satisfaction and pride to the Dominican people that their government had been able to maintain prompt payment at full interest on its foreign obligations. President Trujillo has determined to recognize the fact that a nation's standing among nations is determined by the desire to keep its word and to make good its pledges.

Like all statesmen in chaotic times, President Trujillo has had to face the fire of minority groups of politicians bent upon saving for themselves the patronage and power which they had been able to arrogate to themselves before he assumed the helm of his country. These were the men who played their part in bringing about the bankrupt treasury which President Trujillo found when he took office. That sort of opposition has vanished.

Those who were in the opposition, and who learned to recognize the qualities of leadership and idealism that impelled President Trujillo, have been generous in their patriotism, and have joined hands to advance the interests of their country, placing it and its welfare before personal ambitions. President Trujillo recognizes this as a truly American instinct, a culmination of the processes of a republican form of government.

In 1905, when a crisis confronted the Dominican Republic, it was a Roosevelt who intervened. President Theodore Roosevelt made an agreement under which the Dominican Republic was saved from foreign intervention. Today the Dominican Republic looks to another Roosevelt and expects from him the continued

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friendship and helpfulness which the Dominican Republic has enjoyed in its relationships with the United States.

In the Dominican Republic, very large and important American capital is invested.

Those in charge, after long years in the Dominican Republic, are loud in their praise of the cooperation and helpfulness given to them. They have enjoyed and received the hearty welcome given with open arms to all foreigners. They know what it means to have the glad hand extended and to feel and know that, in the Dominican Republic, under the wise guidance of President Trujillo, the same consideration is given to them as received in their native countries.

One striking testimonial to the efficiency of the Dominican Government, and particularly its fiscal policies, lies in the cordial relationship between the Government and the Collectorship of Customs maintained by the United States. In a message to the Secretary of State of the Presidency written June 26, 1936, Mr. William E. Pulliam, General Collector of Customs in the Dominican Republic, said:

“It is an undeniable fact that in all the Governments I have seen in the many years I have lived in this nation, from 1907, beginning with that of General Caceres, none has given to the Collectorship such efficient and valuable support and cooperation as that of President Trujillo, benefitting the progress of the customs service generally, including that of the Collectorship itself.”



## PART TWO:

His Work and the Dominican Republic



## Chapter V

### THE CAPITAL AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

IN ORDER to understand the tremendous changes that have taken place in the Dominican Republic in the last five years, it is well to have a background of knowledge regarding the capital city and the nation. The capital, now called Trujillo City, District of Santo Domingo, for reasons explained in the following pages, was formerly called Santo Domingo, National District.

An excellent description of the capital several years ago is contained in a description written some years ago by Mr. Sumner Welles, now Assistant Secretary of State of the United States, which was published in the *Pan American Bulletin*. The article is here reprinted:

“It is a mystifying thing that to the American tourist, so well acquainted with even the less frequented countries of Europe, to whom the Far East and the remoter corners of the world are often familiar haunts, the oldest city of the New World and the outpost of European civilization on the American Continent should be completely unknown.

“It is particularly astonishing, when one stops to think that the Dominican Republic lies but a few hundred miles off the southeastern coast of the United States and that it can be reached from New York by modern up-to-date steamers in but four days’ time. Few Americans, in fact, seem to be aware that there lies almost at their door the city founded by Columbus him-

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self; the city where the great discoverer lies buried; where there still stand the walls of the palace built for his son, Diego, the first governor of the colony of Santo Domingo; where there exists, in perfect preservation, the oldest cathedral of the American hemisphere, a singularly beautiful example of sixteenth century Spanish architecture; a city which retains all the charm and fascination of the great days of Spain's golden age, so infrequently found today in the cities of Spain itself.

"It is probable that those who know these facts assume that the traveler who wishes to visit the Dominican Republic will find difficulty in going there, or that once he arrives he will find no means of transportation about the Republic and will, in any event, have to put up with every class of discomfort; but the reverse is actually the case. The large modern steamers of the New York and Porto Rico Line sail every Thursday from New York, arriving at San Juan, Porto Rico, in the early morning of the following Monday.

"After a day spent on shore in Porto Rico, the traveler boards the steamer again and after one more night's sail reaches the Dominican Republic in the morning of the following day. He will find Trujillo City, notwithstanding the appearance of antiquity and of medieval charm which it can never throw off, a city possessing all the modern comforts which he may demand.

"He will find brightly lighted streets and asphalt pavements, a modern water supply brought from the mountains twenty miles away, comfortable accommodations and excellent restaurants, and should he be a motor enthusiast, a network of broad macadam roads stretching in every direction from the capital and link-



ing it with every town and portion of the entire Republic.

“These are the material advantages which can not be lightly disregarded. But the lure of the Dominican Republic lies rather in the fascination of its historical monuments, in the astonishing beauty and diversity of its natural scenery, and in the enjoyment of a climate which can not be excelled on the American Continent and which, to the American who flees from the snow and the cold and the gloomy days of our North American winter, seems, with its resplendent blue skies and its temperature ranging between 70 degrees and 80 degrees, in itself compensation sufficient for leaving home.

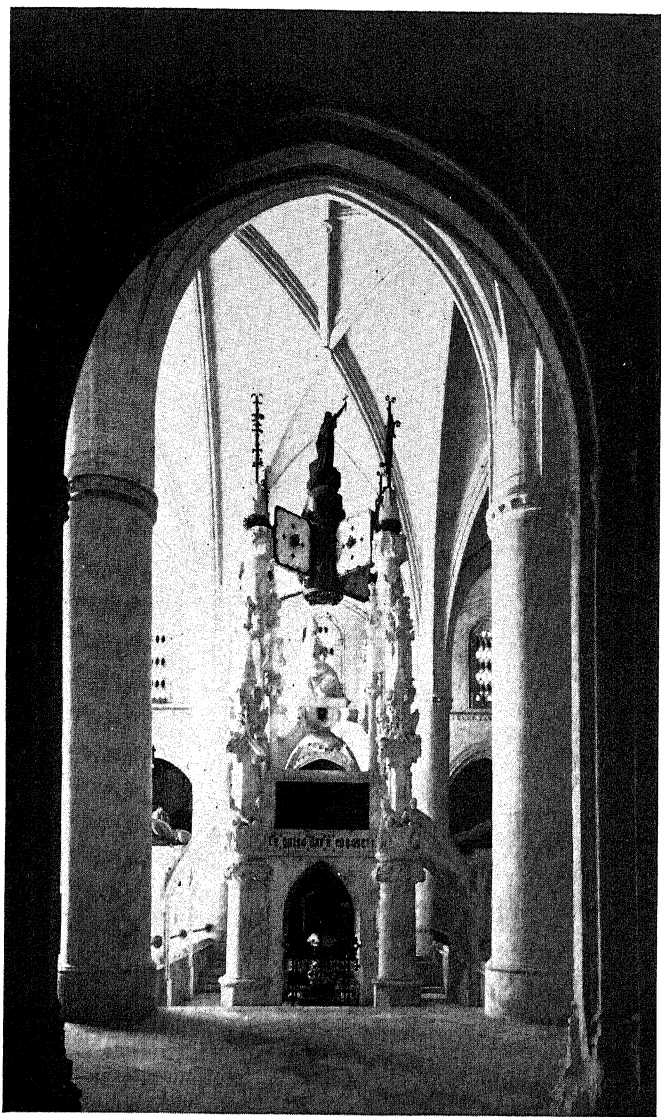
“The city of Santo Domingo was the first permanent settlement in the New World. Regarding as unsuitable or unlucky the site surveyed during the course of his visit to the island, early named “Hispaniola,” which occurred in December, 1492, Columbus subsequently sailed along the southern coast of the island until he reached the mouth of the Ozama River. The natural harbor thus afforded appealed to him and to his companions, and it was there that the flagship of Columbus was moored to the trunk of a large ceiba tree, which remained standing until modern times. There the colony was permanently located, and there remained for many decades the capital city of Spain’s American empire. It was through Santo Domingo that all the great Spanish discoverers first passed on later expeditions. There was no great figure in the history of Spain’s conquest of Mexico, Central America, or South America who did not walk the same streets which we can walk today. It was at Santo Domingo that all the vessels

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laden with the golden treasure which contributed to Spain's heyday as a great power of Europe congregated twice a year to make the voyage thence to Spain, trusting in their numbers for protection against the freebooters and British raiders, who occasionally wreaked havoc upon them. It was only in later years, when its glory as the center of the New World had waned, that Sir Francis Drake made his bold raid upon its hitherto supposedly impregnable defenses, and one can still see today, embedded in the walls of the old fortress of San Geronimo, which lies without the city, some of the cannon-ball shot from the vessel under Drake's command.

"Three centuries later, when Spain's power had fallen to its lowest ebb, Santo Domingo passed through the bloody tragedy resulting from the rebellion of the slaves in the adjoining French colony, now known as Haiti. Prostrate for over 20 years under the domination of the liberated blacks, the descendants of the Spaniards who still remained in Santo Domingo at length freed themselves from the tyranny which they had suffered and proclaimed and maintained, often against overwhelming odds, their own independence. Reclaimed as a colony by Spain in 1860, the Dominicans once more, four years later, regained their liberty, and have since retained their independence against every obstacle and the repeated attempts made upon it by the great powers of the world.

"There are few nations of the earth which have in modern times passed through the vicissitudes, both foreign and domestic, which the Dominican Republic has undergone and there are few nations which can offer



The magnificent marble mausoleum in which the remains of Christopher Columbus are retained, in the chapel of the Cathedral at Trujillo City.  
This is the most important shrine in the Western World.



The Alcázar de Colón, or Columbus Castle. Construction began in 1510. It is the ancestral home of the Columbus family. Don Luis Columbus ruled all the Spanish dominions in America from here. Another son of Christopher Columbus, Don Diego, lived here with his wife, Lady Maria de Toledo. Don Diego was Viceroy and Governor of the Island.

to the student so many fascinating pages in their history.

“Journeying from Porto Rico, one approaches the Dominican Republic along the southern shore of the Republic, a shore that lies low along the horizon, its miles of sugar-cane plantations broken here and there by groves of coconut palms or small fishing villages nestling in natural breaks in the coral reef of which the southern shore is largely composed. One passes, some 50 miles before reaching the capital itself, the large city of San Pedro de Macoris, the principal port of export for the sugar grown in the Republic. Through this port there passes the greater part of the raw sugar produced in the Republic, destined almost in its entirety, owing to the tariff restrictions imposed by the United States, for Canada and Europe.

“Trujillo city is hidden from view until one is almost upon it. The steamer makes a sudden turn around a point of land, the Punta Torreoilla, that juts out sharply into the Caribbean, and then the city is spread before one, rising from the coral cliffs and stretching out over low-rolling hills that lie beyond. Far away to the north one can see the high mountains of the central portion of the island, and to the south, in tiers of luminous blue, the mountains forming the natural barrier between Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

“As one enters the narrow mouth of the harbor where the Ozama River empties into the sea, one skirts on the left the high cliff upon which stands the old fortress which dates from early colonial days and is still used as a garrison for the national military forces, although

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a portion of the old building has been converted into a municipal prison.

“Halfway up the hillside, adjacent to the old city wall, there stands the palace of the Columbus family, its medieval walls hardly impaired by time, although the roof has been permitted to decay and the rooms where Diego Colon (Colon is the Spanish form of Columbus) and his wife passed so many years of their life stand open to the sky. The docks and the customs houses stand just below, extending along the bank of the river. Once ashore, the traveler enters the city through one of the old city gates, still standing intact, and from there passes directly into the turmoil of the commercial quarter, which has claimed for its uses the streets and sections composing the original Santo Domingo of the sixteenth century.

“Through this maze of narrow, winding streets, the tourist is suddenly brought into an open, rectangular square in the center of which is a well-kept park fringed with large shade trees and gay with the blossoms of tropical shrubs. In the center rises the monument to Columbus, the effigy of the Grand Admiral, and behind there stands in all its beauty the Cathedral of Santo Domingo, of which the foundation stones were laid in the first years of the sixteenth century, and of which the exterior, today, remains unimpaired by time or by man’s desire for change.

“The cathedral is a striking example of a Spanish Romanesque basilica. Its western or main entrance is particularly fine, the facade decorated with frescoes which have mellowed, through exposure, to the softest

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tones. Just within the portal stands the tomb of Columbus, where the ashes of the discoverer of the American Continent lie encased in a small urn. While the interior of the cathedral has been marred to a great extent by restorations and by the questionable taste of modern times, the magnificent proportions of the building the hand of the restorer has been unable to mar, but it is the exterior that conveys an unforgettable impression of haunting beauty.

The local stone, of which the building is constructed, has turned, with the passing of the centuries, to an astonishing tone of golden gray, reminiscent, particularly in the early morning light or at dusk, of some of the Egyptian temples of the eighteenth century B. C.

“The cathedral and the palace of the Columbus family are by no means the only beautiful relics of antiquity that are left. There are other churches of almost equal age, some of them still in use, and some in ruins wreathed with a curtain of tropical creepers and trees; there are the old fortresses, notably the fortress of San Geronimo, already referred to; and there are private houses which date from colonial days. All of the old city, however, notwithstanding the modern buildings constructed within its limits, retains that charm which only antiquity can give, and even the garish symbols of modernity are veiled and softened by that remarkable quality of light with which all of the West Indian islands are blessed to so remarkable a degree.

“Toward the southwest, the newer residential sections, which are being rapidly developed, lie spread for some miles along the coast and on the ridge overlooking the

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sea. It is on the hillside commanding the harbor that the presidential mansion is situated, whence it commands as beautiful a view as can be found on the French Riviera. Clustered about are the official residences of the members of the Government, and within a few years there will be built, adjacent to the Government compound, the new home of the Union Club, the leading club of Trujillo City, the new university, and the Palace of Justice.

“It is here, too, or on Torrecilla point, which lies to the right as one enters the mouth of the river (the selection of the site depending upon the decision of the governing board of the Pan American Union), that the great inter-American monument to Christopher Columbus is to be built. This memorial, which is to take the form of a monumental lighthouse, of utility not only to navigation but to aviation as well, should be of peculiar interest to every American. The conception of an imposing monument honoring the memory of the discoverer of the American Continent dates back many generations, but it is only in latter years that the movement has taken shape and crystallized. The idea that this monument should take the form of a towering lighthouse was first openly urged in the American press by William E. Pulliam.

“At first the proposal met with but slight encouragement, but finally, when the construction of a monument was proposed in the form of a resolution by the delegate of the Dominican Republic to the Fifth International Conference of American States held in Santiago, Chile, in 1923, the resolution was adopted unanimously. In the following year the present Dominican Government came



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into office, and due in major part to the initiative of the present President of the Republic, the movement for the building of the monument changed from a nebulous hope that the monument might some day be constructed to a definite program for its erection in the immediate future.

“Detailed plans were approved by the Sixth International Conference of American States in 1928, and as the result of the program then conceived a world-wide architectural competition has since taken place in which ten plans for the monument were selected. The architects of these ten will compete again in the second stage of the competition, when the final plan will be chosen. It is estimated that the lighthouse monument will cost several millions of dollars. The Dominican Government itself has not only agreed to donate the site and to provide for the maintenance of the lighthouse in perpetuity, but has also borne the considerable expense entailed by the necessary campaign of publicity and the cost of the competitions which have taken place. The remainder of the required sum will be met by the Government of the American Republics, as well as by private subscription. As the share of the United States to the required contribution, President Coolidge, in 1928, recommended to the American Congress an appropriation of \$871,000.

“It is proposed that the remains of Columbus, now interred in the cathedral, be transferred to a crypt underneath the lighthouse when the monument is finally completed, and it is further proposed that the monument should be surrounded with a large park, from which there will extend on one side a landing field for air-

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planes, which, as the years go by, will undoubtedly come in greatly increasing numbers to the Dominican Republic on their way from the United States to the Southern Hemisphere.

“Some thirty-five minutes by automobile from the capital lies the beach of Boca Chica, a beach which can only be described as the realization of one’s dreams of what a tropical beach should be; a perfect horse-shoe in shape, the soft sand of purest white, the waters of the bay, hemmed in by a coral reef, are afforded complete protection from the wandering sharks or barracudas that generally make bathing in tropical waters so nerve-racking an amusement. Boca Chica is an ideal combination of palm trees, white sand, and clear, translucent water which assumes the most gorgeous tones of green and blue with the changing light. A casino, clubhouse, and bathing pavilion have been constructed there by a group of prominent families in the capital, but the beach is so long that for many years to come there will be all the privacy and solitude which the tourist may demand, should he prefer it.

“Should the tourist be interested in botany or in zoology he will here find an extended field attractive to him. In the lowlands, both of central plains and of the coast, he will see in the greatest diversity, tropical and subtropical trees and plants; on the highest uplands, where frost may be expected during the winter months, he will find the vegetation of the Temperate Zone, and will consequently not be astonished to find thriving fields of wheat and apple orchards and other evidences of a climate similar to that of our own Middle Northern States. While the list of mammals native to the Domi-

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nican Republic is relatively small, the variety of its bird life is amazing. As an instance of this one may cite the large flocks of flamingoes which have inhabited for centuries the salt lakes of the southern provinces, and the fact that only last year, within a few miles of that same district, there was found by representatives of the Dominican Department of Agriculture wild ducks which had been ringed the year before by game wardens in Canada. In general, however, the bird life is that of the tropics and the fields and woods of the northern provinces are filled with the brilliant plumaged birds which one is accustomed to see in the tropical regions of Central and South America.

“It has been difficult in this brief survey of the various features which should attract the average tourist to the Dominican Republic to give a graphic picture of any one of them. The Dominican Government has, however, recently created in its Department of Promotion and Public Works, a special bureau known as the Tourist Bureau. Here the tourist who may be interested in visiting the Dominican Republic may obtain full information regarding any particular subject that especially interests him and may likewise receive printed pamphlets which will give him full and accurate information not only bearing upon the material features of travel in the Republic but on the resources of the nation as well, and on the historical monuments of the country. There can assuredly be no tour within the Western Hemisphere which will so fully repay the traveler as the journey to this neighboring country which lies so near our shores.”



# Chapter VI

## The Destruction and Re-Creation of the Capital



## Chapter VI

### THE DESTRUCTION AND RE-CREATION OF THE CAPITAL

SCARCELY had the echo of the applause died down with which the entire nation greeted the elevation of President Trujillo to the highest national dignity, when the capital of the country was the scene of one of the most horrifying disasters that has ever struck any city of the Americas. Three weeks after the inauguration, on September 3d, 1930, the capital and its suburbs were almost totally destroyed by a hurricane whose consequences were of such magnitude that they constituted a national disaster.

The city was converted into a mountain of rubbish, and it seemed impossible that the ruins had ever been or would ever in the future be a living, beautiful city.

But President Trujillo did not vacillate for an instant. For him, great lover of his country, it must have been a moment of such deep emotion that all his force of character was required to keep himself calm. He mastered himself, and walked out among the ruins to the ancient del Conde Gate, from whose stones there still appeared to echo the sound of his words only a few months before assuring his fellow citizens, "There is no danger in following me." And as he walked, his will triumphed over the ruins, as he faced the realities of the catastrophe.

All was desolation about him. There remained stand-

## PRESIDENT TRUJILLO AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

ing and intact only the colonial buildings of olden days, like symbols of the unforgettable past. But before buildings could be repaired, it was necessary to save lives, to feed the starving, to cover the naked and to infuse in the terrified spirit of the nation the feeling that everything which had been lost could be regained by a common effort. And it was this work which President Trujillo accomplished during this hour of trial.

In his declaration of May 14th, 1930, facing the widespread depression, and on the occasion of his election to the Presidency, he had said:

“Because I shall assume the functions of my high post in the midst of the most terrific economic crisis that our public administration has ever had to face, the immediate emphasis will be on the stabilization of our finances and the restoration of our battered public credit. My determination will be to make up the large deficit created by the preceding administration, which has strangled our economic development, by reasonable revenues determined scientifically, and to work out in accordance with the most advanced and modern systems of political economy, the creation of new and positive sources of wealth which, without increasing the burdens of the people by taxation, will inaugurate a period of economic prosperity which will be the greatest recompense of my efforts as a leader.”

Not three months had passed from that day when the hurricane struck, destroying the capital of the Republic. Facing this aggravated crisis, he did not count on outside aid—he never has at any time—but on his personal actions, rapid and decisive, which put into play all the energy of the Government, and brought a vivifying and



## THE DESTRUCTION AND RE-CREATION OF THE CAPITAL

comforting breath to the souls disheartened by the disaster.

It would have been natural for the nation to request from foreign bond holders some kind of a breathing space in the making of interest and amortization payments. Indeed, American officials suggested some such arrangement, realizing what a heavy blow the hurricane had been. Not only did President Trujillo not request postponement, but he refused to consider the suggestion in any way, and in a cablegram to the Dominican Legation in Washington, dated September 9th, he maintained his unbreakable resolution that the payments on the debt should be made with rigorous punctuality.

Rapid action was required to save the situation, and the legislative chambers granted the chief executive the needed powers.

Within five days of the hurricane President Trujillo was able to issue his manifesto of September 8th, filled with optimism and faith, and proclaiming the restoration of normality. The regulation of means of succor was the only immediate preoccupation.

For this purpose a Committee of the Red Cross and of Medical Aid was created, whose duty it was to carry out emergency measures for the health, cure, sanitation and feeding of the victims. A decree of September 9th regulated the flow of commerce, so that there would be an adequate supply of necessities.

It was necessary to know the extent of the losses sustained by the catastrophe. President Trujillo appointed a Commission to appraise these losses, and this Commission began functioning on September 9th.

## PRESIDENT TRUJILLO AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

On the same day another decree was issued by the President which was of tremendous benefit to all Dominicans. Under this decree the sale of building materials was strictly regulated, and the charging of higher prices than those existing before the hurricane was forbidden. This prevented excessive profits, and made it possible for repair and reconstruction work to be done at fair prices.

President Trujillo assumed the Presidency of the Dominican Red Cross, thus personally directing relief work and avoiding red-tape and diffusion of efforts.

Other measures of great importance protected the public from a rise in prices of food and other necessities. These protective steps enabled the majority of people to care for their own needs, while the Government aided those who were completely helpless.

Slowly the capital began to resume its ordinary activities. The streets by this time had been repaired sufficiently for traffic to pass, and the entire business section had executed repairs and emergency construction to pave the way for the permanent building program soon to take place as a manifestation of the new spirit of the city.

Then began the permanent building program which has been in reality the creation of a new city. Fortunately the colonial structures, such as the Cathedral of Santo Domingo, where rest the remains of Christopher Columbus, were all preserved; so that President Trujillo started with a basis of a city as it was three or four hundred years ago.

The reconstruction of the capital city is one of his

## THE DESTRUCTION AND RE-CREATION OF THE CAPITAL

most extraordinary achievements, because he has not only restored all that was destroyed, repairing completely the damage done by the catastrophe to private wealth, but the city has been beautified with new boulevards like the magnificent Presidente Trujillo Avenue (now renamed George Washington Avenue) and with modern buildings, vigorous manifestations of progress made possible only by the energy of this great leader under whose administration the country is reaching the ideal of civilization which illumined the dreams of the founders of the nation.

All the streets have been reconstructed, using different kinds of pavement, depending on traffic conditions in the various sections.

On the busiest thoroughfares macadam penetrated with asphalt has been used; on less busy streets, macadam with a surface coat of asphalt; and on minor streets gravel with a surface coat of an emulsion of asphalt and oil. Sidewalks, sewers, etc., were repaired or reconstructed on all these streets also.

In remaking the streets special care was taken in certain sections to handle heavy rainfall and prevent flooding which formerly was common in these sections. Particularly on Mella Avenue complete provisions were made for channels for excess water, conduits, drains, etc., made of concrete.

The water supply system was repaired and renovated, as the piping had been faulty, causing a great loss of water.

For many years the inhabitants of the city had hoped strongly for the construction of a boulevard following

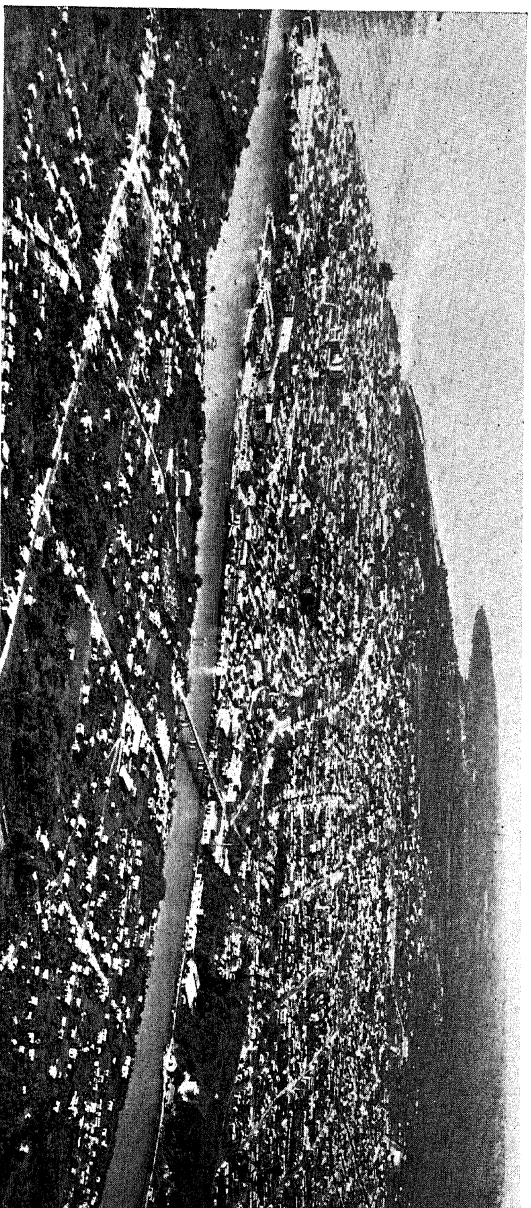
## PRESIDENT TRUJILLO AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

the shore line of the Caribbean Sea, continuing the Malecon Presidente Billini and terminating at the historic castle of San Geronimo.

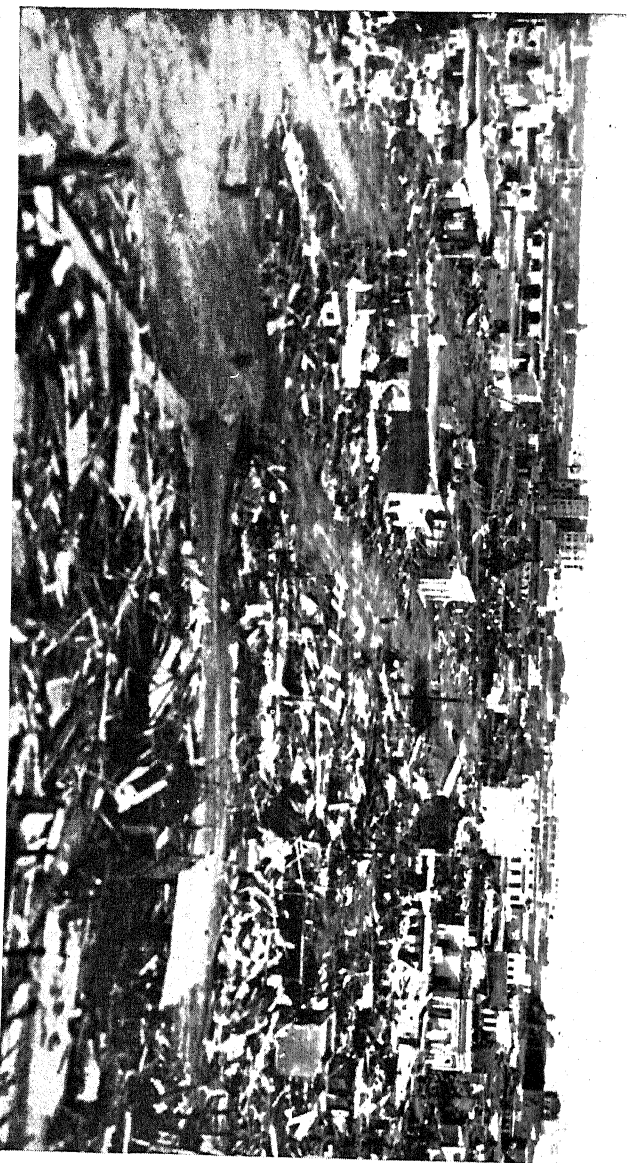
This dream, which had not been realized during many generations, became a reality under the administration of President Trujillo, giving the city a new splendor. Utilizing in part funds which under the constitution are to be dedicated to the embellishment of the city, the work has now reached completion of that part lying between Ramfis Park and the Guibia bathing pavilion, a total length of 1,100 meters. Its majestic beauty is a motive of great pride for the capital.

George Washington Avenue has a width of 15 meters for vehicular traffic; wide sidewalks with grass on both sides of each sidewalk; a balustrade on the ocean side with a low reinforced concrete wall that provides seats for the public; and a pier for swimming, six meters wide. The ornamental light posts are located on both sides of the boulevard alternately at a distance of 25 meters. And to harmonize with the tropical scene, rows of palm trees have been planted in the grass on both sides of the sidewalks.

Because constantly increasing traffic over the Ozama Bridge had made España Avenue inadequate, and as this street was the only approach to the bridge, it was decided to construct another means of access by extending Mella Avenue to the Ozama Bridge, as this is the major artery of the higher part of the city and the widest and best aligned. For this purpose it was necessary to condemn and tear down numerous buildings, to provide free passage for the extension and also a most beautiful view of the historic Fort of Santa Barbara



An air view of Trujillo City, rebuilt by President Trujillo after its destruction by a hurricane on September 3, 1930. A grateful people insisted that the National Congress give to the new city the name of its creator, and accordingly by unanimous vote it was changed to Trujillo City.



A Photograph taken the day after the hurricane of September 3, 1930, showing the destruction which made a mass of wreckage of the city of Santo Domingo. An entirely new city was created in the same spot by President Trujillo, and on the insistence of the Dominican people, has been named Trujillo City, by unanimous act of the National Congress.

## THE DESTRUCTION AND RE-CREATION OF THE CAPITAL

and a portion of the ancient Colonial wall which formerly encircled the city of Santo Domingo. This wall is a historical relic of tremendous value, and this was kept in mind in designing and planning the street. The surroundings of the wall have been embellished with flowers, so that it actually has become a great garden.

To level the ground and bring it into alignment with the new street it was necessary to excavate 9,000 cubic meters of rock and 6,000 cubic meters of earth, constructing curbs and culverts and a conduit 215 meters in length to catch heavy rains and transport the water to the river under La Marina Street.

Today the city of Trujillo has been transformed from the ruins left by the hurricane into a graceful modern and charming city. Its streets, paved and clean, with fine sidewalks, many of them shaded by trees; its wide boulevards which give a magnificent impression; its new buildings of modern design at the sites which were the scenes of the greatest tragedy; its parks and gardens where formerly there was a barren waste; and all its other appointments are the work of General Trujillo, to whom the citizens of the capital are indebted, having wrought from ruins a beautiful city representative of the finest features of modern urban civilization, and particularly attractive to tourists.

In the creation of the new city, perhaps the most important development is the new port being constructed as these words are written. The city was founded as the center of the activity of this part of the world. The Spanish colonizers undoubtedly chose this site largely because of the opportunity for a harbor. Although no

## PRESIDENT TRUJILLO AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

natural harbor exists, the small ships used in those days did not present the difficulties of modern ocean transportation. Even from the first, though, it must have been in their minds to make necessary changes by which a harbor might be created to care for the constantly increasing commerce to and from different parts of the world.

No actual work was done on this harbor, however, and it always remained one of the projects of the future—a dream whose realization would bring enormous benefits. When the Dominican Republic established its independence in 1844, one of the active plans at its inception lay in carrying out this age-old dream. From that time until the present, each succeeding administration has spoken of and planned for a new harbor. But the magnitude of the enterprise was beyond the capacity of the country's leaders until the administration of President Rafael L. Trujillo.

This does not mean that previous administrations did not spend money on the great project. Indeed, appropriations for surveys and preliminary work were a fertile field for the use and misuse of public money. In 1921 over a million dollars were dispensed in engineering surveys that turned out to be entirely useless. In the administration immediately preceding that of General Trujillo elaborate docks and machinery were constructed for the project, but could not be used, and represent nothing more than the expenditure of vast sums of money.

When President Trujillo began his administration on August 16th, 1930, one of the first projects in his mind



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was the construction of a modern harbor and its appurtenances, but in his characteristic way he did not even mention this at the time, for his policy is to act rather than talk. Great work of rehabilitation of the nation, of establishing a balanced budget, of complying with financial obligations, of restoring economic stability to the country, was necessary before such a gigantic undertaking could be begun. And though these things had largely been accomplished by the beginning of President Trujillo's second term, he preferred not to list the harbor project in the elaborate program of public works to cover the following four years, because he was reserving the knowledge that this project would at last become a reality for the day when actual work would begin.

And so, without fanfare, without publicity, without announcement, workers suddenly appeared at the site of the harbor in the first days of April, 1935, and began working. Quietly all necessary surveys had been previously made and detailed construction plans completely worked out. As a consequence, within three months a large dredge was deepening the navigating channel; over twelve hundred lineal feet of the breakwater had already been finished; a new reinforced concrete bulkhead was being built; sheds, warehouses, docks were becoming visible; in brief, sixty per cent of the dream had materialized.

One important point to bear in mind is the financing of the project. In previous days it had been the practice of the Dominican Republic to do what most other governments do when they erect large public works—that is, borrow money for future generations to pay. This is

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a policy completely opposed to the principles of President Trujillo, and even with the problem of a three-million-dollar expenditure in addition to his already large public works program he has not swerved, and the costs are being cared for from general funds provided for by the annual budget, without recourse to loans of any kind.

Nor does this mean unusually heavy burdens on the taxpayers, for President Trujillo's administration is characterized by rigid economy, elimination of waste and a complete absence of graft and bribery, with the consequence that a much larger percentage of the annual budget can be devoted to public works than is usually the custom, and every dollar so devoted purchases more in material and labor than is often the case. It would be difficult to find anywhere in the world a project of corresponding magnitude carried out so rapidly and without bond issues, delayed financing, or unusual burdens on the tax payers.

The construction of the new harbor will permit for the first time the direct entrance to the docks of ships of all kinds up to those with a tonnage of 30,000 tons. As the docks are only a few blocks from the center of the city, it can be seen that the new harbor will bring tremendous benefits, as in the past loading and unloading of cargoes with lighters has been necessary.

In order to create the harbor, a breakwater about 2,000 feet in length is being built, and the same breakwater is being made into a recreation pier. In addition 3,500 lineal feet of reinforced concrete bulkhead are being constructed. To deepen the channel sufficiently, more

## THE DESTRUCTION AND RE-CREATION OF THE CAPITAL

than 6,000,000 cubic yards of sand and rock are being dredged. New warehouses, docks, piers, cranes, etc., are being built.

As a part of the same project a harbor beautification program is being carried out, including the construction of new hotels, beach clubs, a casino, a sports park and other enterprises of a nature to attract tourists. The scenery at the seashore is of outstanding beauty, and the completed project will make the Trujillo City shore line one of the most charming spots in the whole world.



# Chapter VII

George Washington Avenue



## Chapter VII

### GEORGE WASHINGTON AVENUE

IN A gesture of friendship and admiration for the United States and its first President, General Rafael L. Trujillo, President of the Dominican Republic, recently suggested that the name of the then called Santo Domingo's most beautiful boulevard, now called Avenida Presidente Trujillo, be changed to Avenida George Washington. Acting on this suggestion, the National Congress approved an ordinance to that effect, naming February 22, 1936, as a date for the official inaugural ceremonies of the new name.

Visitors to Trujillo City always carry away with them vivid memories of the Avenida George Washington, for it is one of the most magnificent drives in the world. Handsome and wide, it follows the shore line of the Caribbean Sea on the south coast of the Republic; the color effects of the sea and sky are unforgettable.

This suggestion of President Trujillo is characteristic of him, as is the eloquent letter which he wrote to the Administrative Council of the National District (now the District of Santo Domingo) making the suggestion. The letter follows:

“Like every nation that loves its native glories, the Dominican nation admires the glories of other lands. Its admiration for the heroes of humanity is as sincere as the devotion it offers its own national heroes. I have had the satisfaction on numerous occasions of being the interpreter of this spirit of admiration, which is also a

revealing proof of the culture and spiritual sensibilities of our nation.

“An expressive manifestation of this sentiment of veneration for great exponents of human thought and action lies not alone in the works of our writers and poets, but also, in equally enduring fashion, in the names that have been given to our cities, avenues, temples, streets, parks, schools and airports: Cristobal Colon (Christopher Columbus), Isabela La Catolica, Bartolome de las Casas, Maria de Toledo, Fernandez de Oviedo, Simon Bolivar, Jose Marti, Eugenio M. de Hostos, Luis Munoz Rivera, Jose de Diego, Francisco de Assisi, Juan Bautista LaSalle, Charles Lindbergh, Luis Pasteur, and others. In the same way, the names of Spain, Mexico, Chile, the Argentine Republic, Uruguay, Cuba, Puerto Rico, and other lands add lustre to educational and other centres in our country.

“But in the galaxy of these great historical figures who, with their names engraved in public places of our nation, keep aflame in the Dominican heart the memory of their unforgettable triumphs and struggles, a sense of justice finds missing the name of the venerated and apostolic figure who is linked in history to the human desires and accomplishments that have most fruitfully influenced the destiny of the world. Adjacent to the name of the great voyager who accomplished the miracle of discovery; adjacent to the name of the illustrious queen who made that miracle possible; adjacent to the name of the Bishop of Chiapas, spiritual father of the Indians; adjacent to the revered name of the immortal conqueror at Boyaca; adjacent to these should stand the prodigious name of the conqueror at Yorktown, of



## GEORGE WASHINGTON AVENUE

him who was so great in the war that forged the most robust democracy of the time.

“Concerning the liberator, George Washington, who is the glorious American figure to whom I refer, one of his biographies in Spanish says of him: ‘Washington is the combination of all the great qualities that we find distributed among all the great men of history: with the abnegation of Cincinnatus he combines the military talents of Caesar, the indefatigable courage of Hannibal, the astuteness of Cromwell, the prudence of Wellington, the brilliance of Napoleon. To form an adequate conception of the greatness of Washington it is necessary to compare him with the first men of the entire world.’

“I do not need to embellish the motives, all of them of a high order, that move me to recommend urgently to the Administrative Council of the National District the need of distinguishing one of the finest of our avenues in the capital, in the most ancient city of the American world, with the name of that greatest champion of liberty and independence in the world. With this, an omission that I consider serious will be repaired, an omission not due to any lack of sentiment in accord with the noble traditions of the Dominican Republic, but to the fact that fruitless methods of life and government distracted the attention of everyone. This dolorous inheritance was reserved for my efforts to make the nation greater through compliance with the obligations imposed by modern civilization.

“This man who was an apostle of liberty, well merits this offering from a nation that loves liberty; he demonstrated how to love liberty in the course of an exis-

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tence in which everything was harmoniously combined in America to realize the most perfect work conceived by the intelligence, shaped by the will, ennobled by the heart and strengthened by the example of him who conserved in all their purity the virtues of patriotism, of courage, of rectitude and probity, of work and of simplicity lasting until he arrived at the serenity in which he died one cold December day.

“I feel happy to make this suggestion, not only because by glorifying one of the principal arteries of the noble and ancient city, our capital, we express our feeling of admiration for one of the glorious figures of humanity, but also because of the permanent and constructive lesson in citizenship, and in love of country, of liberty, and of the virtues of heroism and work, which will be given to my fellow countrymen through the constant presence of a name that passes through the pages of history like a river that leaps from its course to make fertile and beautiful the shores it passes.

“If the Council thinks well of my suggestion, permit me to suggest that the boulevard named Avenida Presidente Trujillo be the one chosen to bear the illustrious name of George Washington.”

As a result of the President's suggestion, the National Congress passed a law making the required change in name, to be effective on Washington's Birthday, February 22, 1936. In addition, the day was declared a national holiday.

With elaborate ceremonies the dedication of the new name was made on February 22, President Trujillo delivering an eloquent address. He said:

## GEORGE WASHINGTON AVENUE

“We inaugurate today the first avenue of the capital of the Republic with the name of George Washington, on the impressive occasion of the birthday anniversary of the great American.

“A true feeling of justice causes us to make this tribute to the memory of a man who possessed the highest qualifications for meriting the admiration of all peoples who love liberty.

“No other human will has carried to success any struggle for liberty so important and so difficult, as that of George Washington from the time that he took command in Cambridge of his little army. The god of battles was not always favorable to that army, and a day came in which neither its valor, sorely tried by the adverse results of certain actions, nor its limited training for war, could constitute promises of triumph against the solid British domination.

“But Washington was there! His genius created soldiers, and gave them arms, discipline, endurance and intrepidity. Launched in the disappointments of a struggle that had for its scene an immense and uneven area, that little band of men suffered reverses which would have imperilled American liberty if it had not been for the courage, the prudence, the honor and the genius of George Washington.

“Today there remain as monuments that perpetuate the extraordinary qualities of the Virginian strategist the epics of Trenton and Yorktown, which culminated in the independence of the American Union.

“But not only as a military figure was Washington to distinguish himself. As a general he revealed qualities

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that turned defeat into victory, and as a legislator he displayed exceptional gifts that consolidated the fruits of his triumphs. The gigantic work of the Union was much more dangerously menaced by the dissidences and rivalries of the natives than by the difficulties of the war itself. The thirteen colonies which had separated from the British crown maintained antagonistic views regarding the laws that should unite them, and they acted as separate and sovereign states.

“It was then that there met in Philadelphia in 1787 the convention which had to strengthen the roots of the tree of the budding Union, making necessary reforms so that a central government might exist.

“Washington was there. He presided with his purity, his abnegation and his immense patriotism, over that historic assembly. And through that assembly emerged the fundamental document that founded the most consistent, enduring and majestic edifice that democracy possesses in the universe.

“And as Washington was great as a general and as a legislator, he was no less great in the immovable serenity of his heart in carrying the weight of tremendous anxieties. The man who was born to command great feats of heroism in the war, and to work out the portentous labors of political organization, was born also to win splendid moral victories.

“These qualities alone are sufficient to have made George Washington a great American; but there was in his life a quality that transforms him into an illustrious father of all mankind, and that was his quality as an apostle of liberty.

## GEORGE WASHINGTON AVENUE

“The best monument erected to his work is the growing might of his nation, today prosperous, strong, respected and happy. That monument will endure while there lives the spirit of a democracy which always has refused to abandon the path traced by the great founders of the American Union. And this Union will have the eminent privilege of the respect and the admiration of the entire American world as long as the teachings of Washington serve as its standards in its fraternal life with the community of nations that have created their sovereignty on the same belief in that democracy.

“I have wanted, in the Dominican Republic, which knows how to guard the inheritance of its independence with the same zeal with which other nations guard theirs, and which has given at all times and in every circumstance the highest proofs of its love of liberty, that the glorious name of George Washington be placed before the eyes of rising generations as a symbol and an acknowledgment of the gratitude which the peoples of the New World have for the illustrious founder of the United States of America, for having shown them the road they must follow to realize their highest destinies as members of world society. And to carry out this purpose, on December 2, 1935, I recommended to the Administrative Council of the National District—now the District of Santo Domingo—the duty of honoring the most distinguished avenue of the capital of the Republic with the name of the great champion of liberty of the New World; not without noting that in this way we should make up for an omission which I believe to be not due to any lack of sentiment in accord with the noble traditions of the Dominican Republic, but to the

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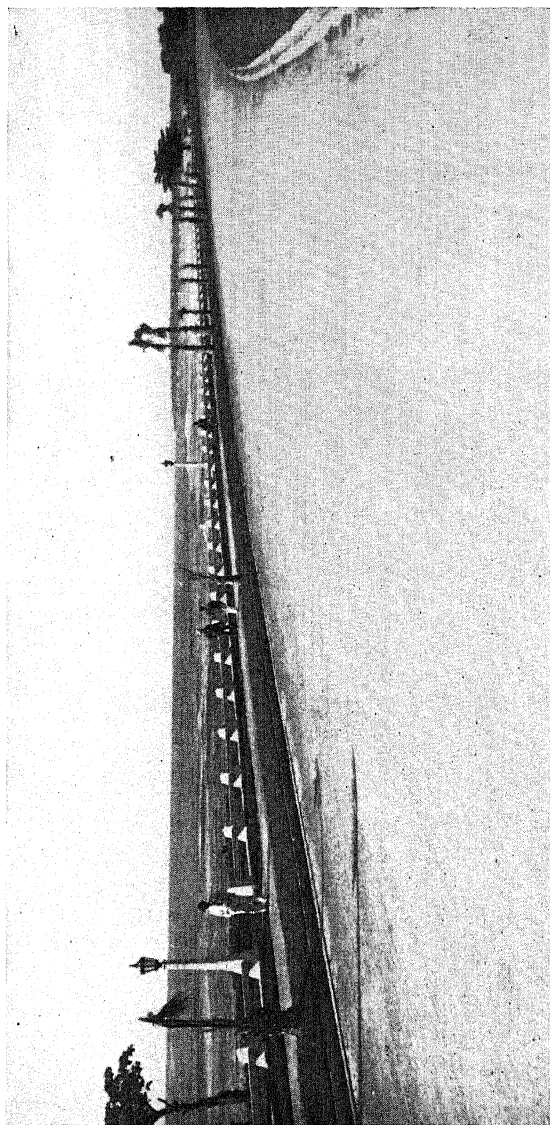
fact that fruitless methods of life and government distracted everyone, which dolorous inheritance was reserved for my efforts to make the nation greater through compliance with the obligations imposed by modern civilization.

“Acting on this suggestion of mine with the most visible enthusiasm, and considering that ‘the name of George Washington, epic hero of the independence of the United States and illustrious precursor of the crusade for emancipation of the nations of the New World, is worthy of the most fervent consecration in the consciousness of nations which, like the Dominican nation, have been distinguished in history by their devotion to the ideal of liberty,’ the Administrative Council of the District passed on the same day its historic resolution, by which this avenue is named ‘Avenida George Washington,’ formerly bearing the name of ‘Paseo Presidente Trujillo,’ having so been designated by law number 524, of June 10, 1933.

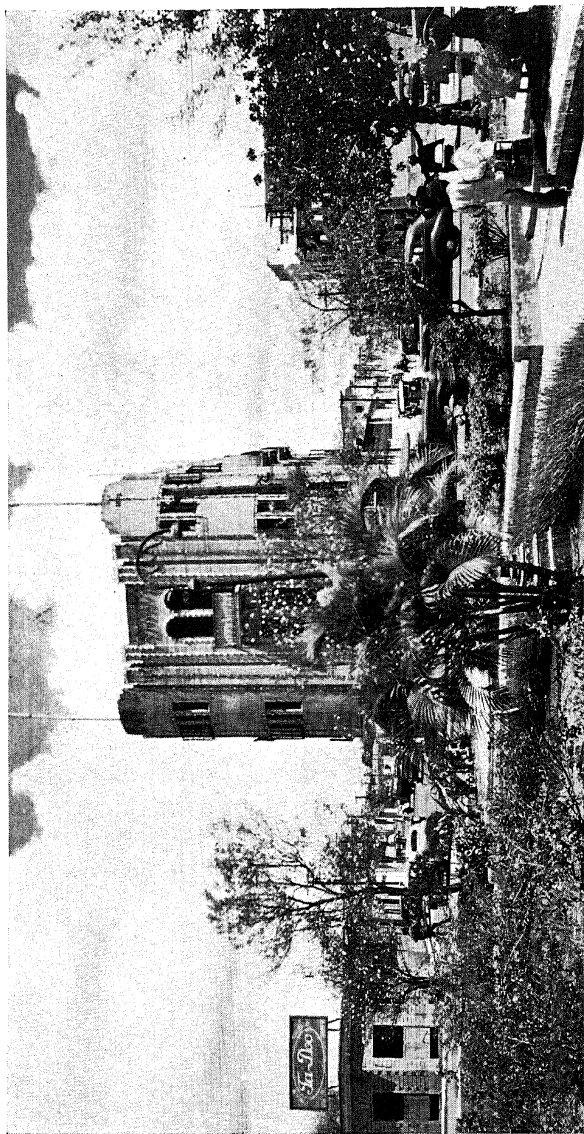
“This resolution was approved unanimously by the National Congress on December 4, 1935.

“In declaring, therefore, this avenue inaugurated with the name of the illustrious founder of the United States of America, I feel justly proud that it was at my suggestion and in my administration that the most ancient city of the western hemisphere has arranged to render its simple homage to the glorious American hero, who is without doubt the greatest liberator in the world, for his plans, his deeds in the war, his acts in peace, and for the endurance of his unequalled achievements.”

The American Minister, the Hon. Hans F. Arthur



Avenida George Washington in Trujillo City. This beautiful drive skirts the shore of the Caribbean Sea. It was renamed in honor of George Washington at the suggestion of President Trujillo, with elaborate dedication ceremonies, on February 22, 1936, as a manifestation of good will to the American people.



Here is a view of Independence Park in Trujillo City, one of the many parks which have been created or beautified under the administration of President Rafael L. Trujillo. The atmosphere of beauty under which the rising generation in the Dominican Republic is growing is part of President Trujillo's program for an active, progressive, happy nation. A laurel in memory of George Washington, planted in 1932, grows here.



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Schoenfeld, delivered an eloquent response. A commemorative bronze plaque of large dimensions, suitably inscribed, was unveiled. Band concert and other festivities were attended by many thousands celebrating with enthusiasm this great event. Unusual fireworks displays at night were greatly admired. The whole city was in gala attire, and all public buildings were brilliantly lighted at night, and decorated with Dominican and American flags and bunting. Without doubt, this was the most extensive and impressive celebration of Washington's birthday ever to be held outside the United States, and is an unforgettable tribute of friendship, good neighborliness and good will for the American people, initiated by President Trujillo.



# Chapter VIII

## The Naming of Trujillo City



## Chapter VIII

### THE NAMING OF TRUJILLO CITY

So GREAT is the gratitude of the Dominican people for the extraordinary achievements of President Trujillo in achieving peace, order, prosperity and a magnificent series of public works, which has changed the nation from a poverty stricken, disorganized, chaotic, revolution-torn land into a stable and flourishing country, and the capital city from a mass of wreckage left by the hurricane into one of the most beautiful and sanitary of modern cities, that they have sought some signal method of honoring the country's benefactor.

This national desire took concrete form in June, 1935, in a proposal advanced by Senator Don Mario Fermin Cabral to change the name of the city of Santo Domingo to Trujillo City. The proposal instantly aroused the enthusiastic approbation of Dominicans, and developed into a national movement for perpetuating the name of President Trujillo in this way.

President Trujillo himself, however, while keenly appreciative of the sentiments causing such a movement, declined the honor in a letter to Senator Cabral written July 19, 1935, which follows:

"Distinguished friend:

"I have followed with careful interest the movement of opinion in this country supporting the idea you expressed in the city of Santiago de los Caballeros that my name be perpetuated by means of a law giving it to



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“Distinguished friend:

“I have followed with careful interest the movement of opinion in this country supporting the idea you expressed in the city of Santiago de los Caballeros that my name be perpetuated by means of a law giving it to

the city of Santo Domingo. I am filled not only with satisfaction but with legitimate pride at the thought which caused this suggestion, and I believe firmly that this spontaneous and significant proof and loyalty to me will be a stimulus to my consecration to the heavy task of government which I am carrying on with the aid of the good Dominican people.

“It is my fixed belief that the personal feelings of public officials do not give them the right to refuse honors which are legitimately offered, because of the significance it is necessary to attribute to their posts.

“But, aside from the question of whether or not the unique honor which you wish to bestow on my name by giving it to the historic city of Santo Domingo is merited, I feel it necessary to say that such a project, for which I personally thank you profoundly, is in frank opposition to one of the plans which I hold most dear as a lover of my country and as a leader—that of keeping the Dominican nation intimately linked with its glorious traditions, which constitute the most interesting pages of New World civilization.

“Santo Domingo, city of Christopher Columbus and his son, to whom the prestige and nobility of Doña Maria de Toledo brought lustre; Santo Domingo, first rock in the monument to the conquest and colonization of America, which displays with silent dignity the most beautiful relics of the faith which brought the conquistadores across the ocean; Santo Domingo, city of legends, with its ancient cathedral and monasteries of the past, with its great Citadel and its impregnable Tower of Homage, with its desolated fortress and its demolished Temple of



## THE NAMING OF TRUJILLO CITY

San Nicolas, the first altar lifted in America by the intrepid adventurers over the mysterious ocean; Santo Domingo, city of Queen Isabel, seat of the austere royal audience chamber, and site of the illustrious University of St. Thomas Aquinas; Santo Domingo, which is, finally, the cradle of our national liberty, should keep as a treasure the name which its founder gave it at the end of the fifteenth century.

“Besides these reasons of a historical character, which caused me to oppose the proposal of giving my name to the first city in America, there exists another reason of a practical nature, which cannot be ignored. If the change of the name of a mere street, in a city, upsets the normal movement of business, and confuses the inhabitants, we could expect enormous confusion, and harm, from changing the name of an entire city, with implications that would necessitate a complete modification of our country's geography.

“I beg, therefore, of you and my other friends in both Houses of Congress, that no law be initiated whose object is to change, or alter, the name sacred in the tradition and history of the city of Santo Domingo. Please accept my most heartfelt gratitude and friendship.”

On receipt of this letter, Senator Cabral replied in an answer which expressed the feeling of the Dominican people. He said, in part: “Conscious that I interpreted the unanimous sentiments of my fellow citizens, I expressed and put in the hands of the nation, the plan of naming the city of Santo Domingo after you, convinced that this tribute would give you a further proof of the love of the Dominican people for you, and this was

## PRESIDENT TRUJILLO AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

proved by the thousands of telegrams and letters received by Congress asking that this be done.

“The Dominican people, my dear President and friends, wish to see you in all places and at all times, in the highest possible civil power, glorified as the authentic apostle of the great rebirth of our nation. The country which idolizes you cannot help admiring also the noble disinterestedness of your labors for the Republic. We respect your determination not to permit the name of the city to be changed—but nothing can prevent your followers, and the generations that follow, from saying in the most brilliant pages of Dominican history, that the city of Santo Domingo is your work, and a great monument to your colossal efforts in its behalf.”

The incident was apparently closed, but in reality it was only a lull in the movement, for the people of the Dominican Republic were in deadly earnest regarding their desire to honor President Trujillo. And this desire was born of the love for him that had been built over the years of his Presidency.

Thus, a few months later the demand commenced once more for a change of name. Like wildfire it spread throughout the country, and at last a tremendous petition to the National Congress was started. On January 9, 1936, it was presented, with 599,173 signatures. When it is realized that this represents one-third the total population of the nation, inclusive of children, it can be seen how widespread this demand was.

Without consulting the President, who was on his vacation, the Vice President, Hon. Dr. Jacinto B. Peynado, acting as President, the National Congress

## THE NAMING OF TRUJILLO CITY

acted immediately in response to the demand of the people, and passed at once a law renaming Santo Domingo. On January 11th, amid great celebrations, the change went into effect, and the city became officially Ciudad Trujillo (Trujillo City).

Mindful of the historical traditions associated with the name of Santo Domingo, as pointed out by President Trujillo in his letter of refusal six months previously, the National Congress preserved the name by renaming the National District; its new name is District of Santo Domingo. In this way, the nomenclature of the city and district is today similar to that of the capital of the United States, Washington, District of Columbia: Trujillo City, District of Santo Domingo.

The two laws, passed unanimously by the National Congress in response to the tremendous demand from the entire nation for the change of name, follow:

### THE NATIONAL CONGRESS

#### In the Name of the Republic

WHEREAS the entire Dominican people have manifested publicly their sincere desire that the City of Santo Domingo, capital of the Republic, be named CIUDAD TRUJILLO, as a reverent expression of gratitude to the great Benefactor of the Nation, Generalísimo Doctor Rafael Leonidas Trujillo Molina;

WHEREAS this unanimous manifestation of the Dominican people constitutes a plebiscite in which it has expressed the will to give the name of Ciudad Trujillo to the City of Santo Domingo;

## PRESIDENT TRUJILLO AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

WHEREAS Generalísimo Doctor Rafael Leonidas Trujillo Molina, Benefactor of the Nation, is worthy of this distinction for which the Dominican people clamor with patriotic fervor, because of his tremendous work of national reconstruction;

WHEREAS the City of Santo Domingo, destroyed by the hurricane of September 3, 1930, was reconstructed by the President of the Republic, Generalísimo Doctor Rafael Leonidas Trujillo Molina, raising it, modernized and beautiful, from its ruins;

WHEREAS the magnificent achievements of the Benefactor of the Nation, Generalísimo Trujillo, have stirred the national conscience to reward him with the glorious recompense of giving his name to the City of Santo Domingo;

WHEREAS it is the duty of the National Congress to act on the manifestations of the people in the exercise of their sovereignty, as their proper representative;

THEREFORE, THE FOLLOWING LAW HAS BEEN ENACTED:

ARTICLE 1.—Upon the publication of this law, the City of Santo Domingo, Capital of the Dominican Republic, shall be named Ciudad Trujillo.

ARTICLE 2.—On a date which shall be determined by a Resolution of the National Congress, a celebration in honor of Generalísimo Doctor Rafael Leonidas Trujillo Molina, Benefactor of the Nation, will be tendered in Trujillo City by the nation.

ARTICLE 3.—The executive power shall make necessary arrangements regarding the use and value of postage

## THE NAMING OF TRUJILLO CITY

and fiscal stamps, documents and any other papers or pieces bearing the name of Santo Domingo, now in circulation or on deposit in the Offices of State.

GIVEN in the Hall of Sessions of the Palace of the Senate, in Santo Domingo, D. N., Republica Dominicana, on the eighth day of January of the year nineteen hundred thirty-six; the 92nd year of Independence and of the Restoration the 73rd.

The second law is as follows:

### THE NATIONAL CONGRESS

In the Name of the Republic

### HAS GIVEN THE FOLLOWING LAW:

ARTICLE 1.—The Distrito Nacional (National District) shall hereafter be denominated Distrito de Santo Domingo (District of Santo Domingo).

GIVEN in the Hall of Sessions of the Palace of the Senate, in Trujillo City, D. N., Republica Dominicana, on the twelfth day of January of the year nineteen hundred thirty-six; the 92nd year of Independence, and of the Restoration, the 73rd.

The change of name of the capital is a most eloquent expression of the real love and devotion of the Dominican people to President Trujillo. Throughout the nation, there is no inhabitant, native or foreign, who has not been favorably touched by the work of the President. His plans of reorganization, his actual work of reconstruction, have come into contact with the lives of the people in a unique way. The result is a feeling of

## PRESIDENT TRUJILLO AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

personal gratitude on the part of the people that is remarkable.

In wanting to name the capital of the nation for the man who created a new city to replace the one destroyed by a hurricane, there is eminent justice. But there is more than this feeling of justice that has inspired the movement—there is the actual love for a man who has opened the possibilities of life in a new way to a nation that was before in chaos.

# Chapter IX

## A Survey of the Nation's Activities





## Chapter IX

### A SURVEY OF THE NATION'S ACTIVITIES

A COMPREHENSIVE view of the activities of the Dominican Republic is afforded by the Annual Message of President Trujillo to the National Congress, delivered on February 27, 1936. The message, more than 15,000 words in length, takes up in detail the economic and social developments of the Dominican Republic. It follows, in part:

Honorable Senators:

Honorable Deputies:

In compliance with the provision of the 18th section of Article 49 of the Constitution of State, I have the honor to render to you an account in this message of the state of the Republic and of the more important acts performed by the Executive Power during the year nineteen hundred thirty-five; and as well, to place in your hands the reports covering the same period, which have been rendered to me by the various Secretaries of State.

#### INTERIOR, POLICE, WAR AND NAVY

##### *Public Order*

I take particular pleasure in manifesting to you that in the course of the year 1935 peace and order did not suffer any change whatever in the territory of the Republic. This circumstance confirms the efficacy of the political methods implanted by the Government over

## PRESIDENT TRUJILLO AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

which I preside, whose standards of rectitude, energy and work have now shown excellent fruits in the Dominican consciousness.

The Executive Power has made special efforts to better the conditions of communities through the elimination of certain ordinances whose execution interfered with freedom of inter-community commerce, and the discarding of taxes that were too high in relation to the means of livelihood of a considerable portion of the people, and the control and supervision of the laws in operation.

### *General Archive of the Nation*

Law number 912, promulgated May 23, 1935, created the scientific organization of the General Archive of the Nation, and Regulation No. 1316, dictated July 2 of the same year, has established standards for the application and execution of the said law.

### *Immigration*

The law of immigration, number 739, promulgated August 14, 1934, contains provisions which give facilities for collection of taxes in this realm, and assures the accomplishment of necessary actions to bring to a successful conclusion the principal object of this important field of the Administration. For one thing, a scale of taxes is imposed in harmony with the resources of the taxpayers, and for another, it favors the purpose of attracting and holding useful and hard-working immigrants, conceding them exemptions, particularly to farmers who wish to establish themselves in the nation.

## A SURVEY OF THE NATION'S ACTIVITIES

### *National Army*

The work accomplished by this organization has been excellent in all its manifestations, an organization on which rests the prestige of the institutions of the State. It may be said that the army has not limited itself to complying efficiently with its military duties, but has also lent valuable aid to various departments of the Administration in the following activities: Development and administration of agricultural colonies under the Secretariat of Agriculture and Labor, and of military agricultural colonies under the control of the General Staff; care of postal and telegraphic communications; carrying air mail; care of bridges; establishment of sanitary brigades for treating country residents suffering from contagious diseases, and immunizing them against these; inauguration of new air mail routes within the Republic; apprehension of escaped convicts and criminals; guarding and moving prisoners, and their custody in all the prisons of the Republic; prosecution of dealers in contraband articles, and of fiscal lawbreakers; military instruction given to bodies of firemen and municipal police; organization of a national militia under the control of the Executive Power; organization and instruction of the national reserves; protection to the agricultural councils; organization of the school police to enforce compliance with the compulsory education law, and to protect students; military instruction in all the schools of the Republic; and construction, reconstruction and repairs of numerous public buildings for use by the army and other departments.

With the object of having the administration of military justice in accord with technical procedure, and to

## PRESIDENT TRUJILLO AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

assure supervision of infractions outside the field of ordinary jurisdictions, the Executive Power dictated on November 20, 1935, a decree by which a commission was created of experts with the special mission of submitting to him separate outlines for a Penal Military Code and a Code of Military Procedure. The said commission accomplished this work, which was highly commended, and in a short time I shall have the honor to submit to the consideration of the Legislative Chambers the codes prepared by it.

### *Frontier Missions*

After negotiations between the Secretariat of the Interior, Police, War and Navy, and the Nuncio of His Holiness Pope Pius XI, assisted by the Apostolic Administrator of the Archdiocese, a contract was signed on April 15, 1935, for the establishment of a religious mission on the border, for the purpose of aiding in the Dominicanization of it. The missionaries will be priests specializing in this field, and will act in accordance with the instructions of the Secretariats of the Interior, Police, War and Navy, and of Public Education and Fine Arts.

### FOREIGN AFFAIRS

During the year 1935 my Government has continued developing with great effort the policy of loyalty and cordiality in its work to make constantly more firm and advantageous the international relations of the Republic, and more expansive our cooperation in efforts dedicated to the peace and progress of mankind. These relations have been consolidated in the course of 1935.

## A SURVEY OF THE NATION'S ACTIVITIES

The year 1935 marks a memorable step in our relations with the Republic of Haiti. I can say with pride that the most important act for friendship between the two nations, that which has opened the path by which without suspicion links of spiritual and economic value can be cultivated and developed, is the Accord which His Excellency the President of the Republic of Haiti, Dr. Stenio Vincent, and I signed, to put a definite and satisfactory end to the conflict about frontiers that existed between the two nations.

It was precisely on February 27th, the great anniversary of our independence, that the Accord was signed as the result of the conversations which President Vincent and I initiated in Ouanaminthe and Dajabon (October, 1933), which we continued in Port au Prince at the time of my visit to that capital (November, 1934), and which we happily ended on the occasion when President Vincent returned my visit to the sister Republic.

The Accord, as you know, settles finally all and each of the difficulties which were found in the execution of the Dominican-Haitian Frontier Treaty of January 21, 1929, which had appeared impossible of solution. Because of the ending of the frontier differences by means of an Accord which contains just solutions and which satisfies the honor of both nations, there was produced in both regarding it a spontaneous and intense surge of good will.

Reorganized by both Governments, the Dominican-Haitian Frontier Boundary Commission initiated the execution of the work of demarcation provided in the Accord, which has gone on actively, without trouble whatever, and which is now approaching its end.

## PRESIDENT TRUJILLO AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

After the signing of the Accord, I considered it opportune to address the President of the Republic of Spain, and the Presidents of the Latin-American Republics, with the purpose of promoting a mutual conciliatory action concerning the Republics of Bolivia and Paraguay, in order to end the war in the Chaco. This initiative was warmly welcomed, and when, upon the signing of peace in the Chaco, I presented my congratulations to the two nations and to Argentina, I had the satisfaction of receiving new testimonials of recognition of my gesture for peace.

In the matter of international treaties, I am happy to announce that on October 16th there was signed in this city by the plenipotentiaries designated for that purpose by the Spanish Government, and by the Dominican Government, a commercial agreement, whose provisional execution, beginning with the signing of the agreement, was established in the additional protocol of the same document. It is hoped that the convention will result in a greater and more reciprocally beneficial intensification of the commercial relations existing between these two nations, which are so intimately linked spiritually.

Other commercial treaties are now being negotiated, and so that a definite orientation may be maintained regarding our aspirations, I have created a Treaty Commission, composed of the Secretaries of State of the Presidency, Foreign Affairs, Treasury, Agriculture and Labor, Commerce and Industry, and the General Director of Internal Revenue, to whom all projects in negotiation are submitted.

Accepting the recommendation of the Seventh International American Conference, I gave full powers to our

## A SURVEY OF THE NATION'S ACTIVITIES

Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in Washington to sign, as he did on April 15th, in conjunction with the chiefs of the American diplomatic missions and in the presence of His Excellency President Roosevelt, the act of adherence to the Roerich Pact, whose stipulations are dedicated to the protection of artistic or historic treasures.

And through the deposition which in the Ministry of State our Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in Madrid made of the corresponding act of ratification, the Republic formally accepted the International Convention of Telecommunications of Madrid, of 1932.

We have given a new organization to our legation in Germany to put it in the same condition as our other legations in Europe. We have created a legation in Colombia, where there is now an Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, thus beginning to make effective my purpose, already declared by decree, of extending our diplomatic representation to the extent necessary to cover all American nations. As a result of the combinations of posts, and new appointments which I have considered useful for the service, the respective chiefs of missions have presented credentials in Port au Prince, Havana, Bogota, Berlin, London, Paris, Buenos Aires, Madrid and Washington.

A creation of great usefulness to mark and stimulate the progress of our foreign service has been the Inspector of Legations and Consulates. From May to October the official selected to occupy this high post of confidence visited our principal diplomatic and consular offices in

## PRESIDENT TRUJILLO AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

the United States and Europe, and from the information he has secured and the suggestions he has made as a result of this work the profitable results we expected have been achieved.

The Resident Minister of Great Britain presented his credentials in the Republic, with which the elevation of the category of the British Legation, announced in 1934, has become a fact. The personnel of some of the legations accredited to this capital have been augmented.

In order to promote the growing development of our foreign commerce, and to assure to our production prosperous markets, I have arranged that our Consulates General move to have created Dominican Chambers of Commerce which function under their patronage, and which shall be made up of representative elements from the world of business.

The great project of the erection of the Columbus Lighthouse has continued to receive the particular attention of my Government. Our legations have interested themselves specially during the year in encouraging the reorganization and activity of the National Commissions of Propaganda. The construction of the modern port of Trujillo City, the gigantic work to which are attached my dearest efforts, will constitute without any doubt a decisive contribution to the accomplishment of the great monument which will arise as a supreme tribute to the glory of the great Discoverer.

The Juan Pablo Duarte Order of Merit was created by my initiative. As a symbol of fraternity and friendship between the Dominican people and the Haitian people, His Excellency President Vincent was the first person to receive it, and therefore in the great military



## A SURVEY OF THE NATION'S ACTIVITIES

parade in his honor on February 27 in this city, I placed on him the Grand Cross of the Order. The Order has been given, in various grades, to the chiefs of state and chancellors of the nations that sent special missions to my inauguration on August 16, 1934, and to the members of these missions, and also to distinguished foreigners and Dominicans.

I have had the honor to receive this year, and am grateful for them as tributes to the Republic and as a stimulus to my efforts as leader, the Ribbon of the Order of the Republic of Spain, and the Medal of the Ibero-American Institute of the University of Hamburg, and with the same great honor I have been notified that I shall receive the Collar of the Aztec Eagle.

### DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

#### *Budget*

The income during the year rose to \$10,423,179.34, of which \$6,755,809.43 was applied to the General Fund, and \$3,667,369.91 to special funds. The \$3,667,369.91 of the special funds were applied to their express purposes, and the \$6,755,809.43 of the General Fund covered the regular costs of the nation, which totalled \$6,706,486.62, thus achieving a surplus of \$49,322.81.

#### *General Income*

The income of the year came from the following sources:

Customs duties .....	\$2,868,840.06
Other duties and income.....	7,558,339.28

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Total .....\$10,423,179.34

## PRESIDENT TRUJILLO AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

This shows an increase in general income of \$1,168,-374.42, compared with the year 1934, the total for which was \$9,254,804.92. This increase is represented chiefly by an increase in taxes.

### *Customs Duties*

As noted above, the sums received under the classification of customs duties came to a total of \$2,868,-840.06, which, compared with the year 1934, shows a decrease of \$344,370.29.

### *Internal Revenue*

Other income of the Government which, as has been indicated, rose to \$7,554,339.28, compared with similar income of 1934, showed the large increase of \$1,512,-744.71. This increase, in spite of the fact that at the beginning of the year 1935 the territorial property taxes, which represented an income of \$200,000.00 to the Government, were abolished, is due principally to the wise and opportune collection laws now in force, among others the Patent Law, the Law of Imports, and most important of all, Law number 854, which modified Law number 190.

### *General Expenditures*

General expenditures rose to the sum of \$10,373,-856.53, which represents diplomatic expenses, services, improvements and public works, etc., as follows:

General Funds .....	\$6,706,486.62
Special Funds .....	3,667,369.91
Total .....	<hr/> \$10,373,856.53

## A SURVEY OF THE NATION'S ACTIVITIES

### *Foreign Debt*

Due to the great economic crisis which is facing the world, owing to difficult circumstances known to all, and because the Republic could not help from feeling, to some extent, its disastrous consequences, the energy, activity and zeal of the Administration were dedicated to their fullest extent in the earnest effort to control the public treasury, so as to balance, with praiseworthy administrative honesty, the general expenditures of the nation with its income, without disregarding the foreign debt, and this was done in such a way that in spite of the world disaster just mentioned, the Dominican Republic has the honor to be one of the few nations that have not failed to comply with their international financial obligations.

At the close of fiscal operations of December 31, 1935, the total of the foreign debt was \$16,292,000.00, on which, in accordance with the Readjustment, the Republic is paying punctually interest at  $5\frac{1}{2}$  per cent, amounting to \$896,097.50. In accordance with the Convention, the sum of \$60,762.50 has been paid for amortization.

### COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Secretariat of State of Communications and Public Works was created by Law number 786 of November 30, 1934, to fill an evident need in public administration. Its creation has been justified by the efficiency with which the public works program has operated during the year 1935.

To organize the field of communications in a scientific way, I dictated Regulation number 1153 on Decem-

## PRESIDENT TRUJILLO AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

ber 27, 1934, for the function of the Superior and Technical Direction of Postal and Telegraphic Services of the Republic, which went into force with vigor on January 1, 1935. The purpose of this Regulation has been achieved. Also I dictated on November 15, 1934, Regulation number 1098 for Transportation of Money Orders, a service which was inaugurated, to satisfy a pressing social need, on February 1, 1935. The importance of this service can be judged by the results obtained. From February 1, 1935, to December 31, 1935, 21,247 letters containing money orders were carried by the post office, the money orders amounting to \$192,082.57, without the loss of a penny, and bringing an income of \$6,185.32.

Postal service in general was extended, and improved through better established and new routes; 132 mail routes were served by school teachers to give postal facilities to rural communities, and post offices were equipped for this purpose as resources permitted. Telephone service was considerably extended, being carried to communities which never before had possessed it, and was bettered through the reconstruction of lines in bad condition, and the installation of mountings and new apparatus.

In the course of the year 365 kilometers of lines were constructed to link many communities. Also 525 kilometers of lines were reconstructed, making a total of 890 kilometers. In the same way the radiotelegraphic service was extended and improved through the installation of two new stations in Santiago and Puerta Plata, and the modernizing of equipment already existing. On October 31, with the authorization of the Government,

## A SURVEY OF THE NATION'S ACTIVITIES

the Dominican Telephone Company opened to public service the international radiotelephone service which opens communication between our nation and Cuba, the United States, Mexico, Canada and Europe, which is undoubtedly a real step forward in the field of communications.

Postal and telegraphic services during the year 1935 produced an income of \$169,939.68 as against \$150,493.42 in 1934, and \$132,482.17 in 1933.

Public works have received preferred attention from my Government in the year just finished. Without interrupting the regular work of conservation of highways, bridges, and public buildings, in which the sum of \$302,039.41 was spent, in the year 1935 there were finished the highways of Hato Mayor-Sabana de la Mar (Presidente Trujillo), Santiago-Janico (Ramfis), San Francisco de Macoris-Salcedo, Rincon-Cotui, and La Matas de Farfan-El Cercado, which represented an investment for the Government of \$241,328.30; and there were constructed on the Sanchez highway, over the Bani, Nizao and Ocoa rivers the steel bridges named Jose Trujillo Valdez, Lucas Diaz and Julia Molina respectively, at a total cost of \$436,557.01. Also, the sum of \$100,000.00 was invested in streets, avenues, drives, etc., for beautifying the city of Santo Domingo, now Trujillo City, with the purpose of making it worthy of its position as capital of the Republic. The most extensive work, however, carried on by my Government during the past year is the port of Trujillo City, which for many years has been the great hope not only of the city, but of the entire nation, because of the benefits which the national economy will derive from its com-

## PRESIDENT TRUJILLO AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

pletion. This work, which no former Government had dared to attempt, due to its magnitude, was contracted for by the Administration with the engineer, Felix Benitez Rexach, for the sum of \$2,500,000.00, to be paid during a period of eighteen months. The construction work began on March 12, and on December 31 payments had been made, in accordance with the contract, of \$455,000.00. I hope that the port of Trujillo City will be finished in the specified time, and that I may enjoy the thought that another great aspiration of the Dominican people shall have been fulfilled.

Another important project terminated by my Government in the month of May of last year was the detour of the Central Dominican Railroad which had been commenced in July, 1933. For fifty years the Cibao region had been hoping for the realization of this hope, which no Government attempted. My Government completed it within 22 months at a cost of \$99,038.13. This project was done with the funds of the railroad, which at the beginning of my administration was considered to be almost bankrupt. The income of the railroad amounted to \$119,667.99, leaving a profit of \$15,358.09, after covering expenses amounting to the increased sum of \$104,309.90.

With the purpose of augmenting the income of the railroad by increasing the amount of transportation, the tariff on provisions and hardware from Puerto Plata to Santiago was reduced 60 per cent.

The aqueduct of the capital has been equally the object of attention, with the purpose of improving the water service, which had not been able to meet fully the

## A SURVEY OF THE NATION'S ACTIVITIES

demands of the users of the service; for this reason the installation of meters was continued, and 1,500 of these were installed in various sections of the city. As a result, the families of the capital have received for the first time a continuous 24-hour water service, and this service has been extended to offices, schools, parks and promenades. The distribution service was extended in many ways. Because of the improvements, and a more efficient administration, income from water service in the city has increased each year, rising in 1935 to \$110,052.35, as against \$102,965.37 in 1934. Expenditures in the same period were \$36,901.41, showing a profit of \$73,150.94, which was turned over to the public works program for the same year.

### AGRICULTURE AND LABOR

The Secretariat of State of Agriculture and Labor accomplished during the year 1935 all the activities under its direction, with a budget of \$255,160.94. These activities comprehended: Agriculture, stock breeding, irrigation, publications, education, meteorology, school gardens, the School of Agriculture, conservation of mountains and rivers, export of cattle, investigations of documents regarding agricultural and breeding zones, distribution of lands through the community and agricultural protective councils, Plant Hygiene Service, forest wardens, etc. .

Beginning on June 1, in accord with Law number 912, the Secretariat of State of Labor, Agriculture, Industry and Commerce was divided into two secretariats: Commerce and Industry, and Agriculture and Labor.

## PRESIDENT TRUJILLO AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The Section of Publications and Agricultural Education has introduced notable improvements in the Review of Agriculture and Commerce during the year 1935.

During the year the following interesting pamphlets were issued: "Manual of Domestic Economy," "Some Pineapple Problems," "Immunization of Hogs," "Prospectus of Agricultural and Breeding Correspondence Courses." Also many thousands of agreements and contracts for the distribution of land were issued.

Among the most extensive labors of the Section of Publications during the year were the editing, revision, correction and printing of Correspondence Courses in Agriculture, Stock Breeding, and Rural Industries.

### *Protective Agricultural Community Councils Distribution of Lands*

One of the most important activities has undoubtedly been the distribution of lands to poor country residents in the south, north and east of the Republic.

Up to November 22, 1935, there had been distributed in Barahona, 139,864 tareas among 1,662 farmers; Azua, 384,118 tareas among 12,883 farmers; Hato Mayor, 74,785 tareas among 2,492 farmers; Santiago, 299,372 tareas among 8,657 farmers; Monte Cristi, 109,037 tareas among 4,155 farmers.

### *Division of Labor*

The accomplishments of the Division of Labor have fulfilled completely the object of their creation through the execution of the following laws for the protection of Dominican workers:



## A SURVEY OF THE NATION'S ACTIVITIES

1. Law No. 385 regarding labor accidents, which compels employers to protect their workers against labor accidents;

2. Law No. 779 regarding the regulation of advance payment for work by the day, salaries, wages and adjustments, which compels firms to pay workers at least once each fortnight;

3. Law No. 837 regarding the Dominicanization of labor, which compels firms to employ in their personnel not less than 70 per cent of Dominicans;

4. Decree No. 1237, which appoints as Inspectors of Labor various officials and employees of this Secretariat of State; and

5. Law No. 929, which limits to eight hours the commercial and industrial working day.

For the strict application of these laws a body of Inspectors has been named, which has maintained rigorous compliance with them.

## COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

On the first of June, 1935, the Secretariat of State of Commerce and Industry, created by virtue of Law No. 914 of May 31, 1935, began to function.

### *Commerce*

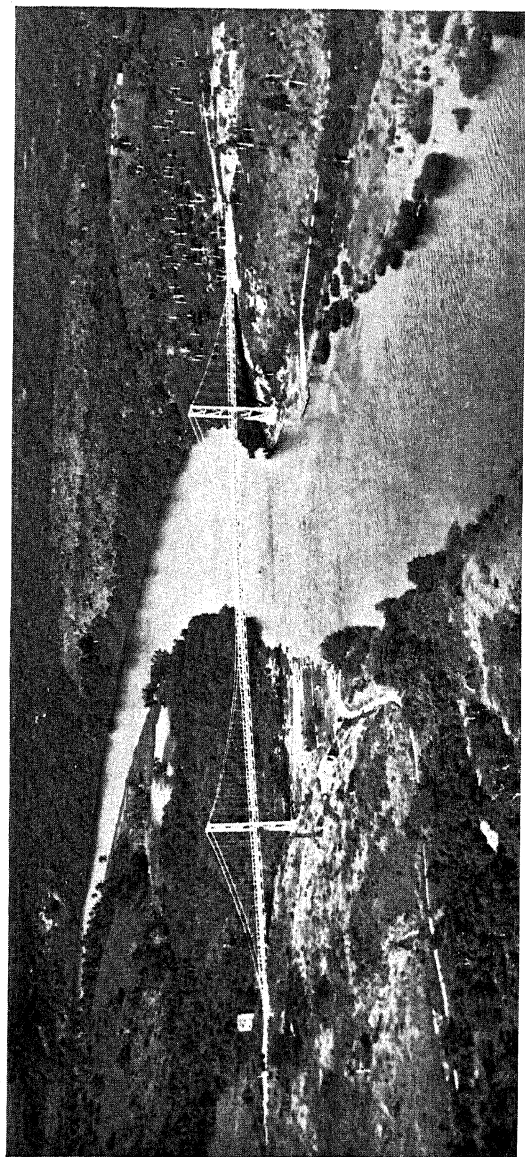
The activities in this field have comprehended both all that appertains to commerce among the inhabitants of the national territory, and the commercial interchange between the Republic and other nations of the world.

## PRESIDENT TRUJILLO AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

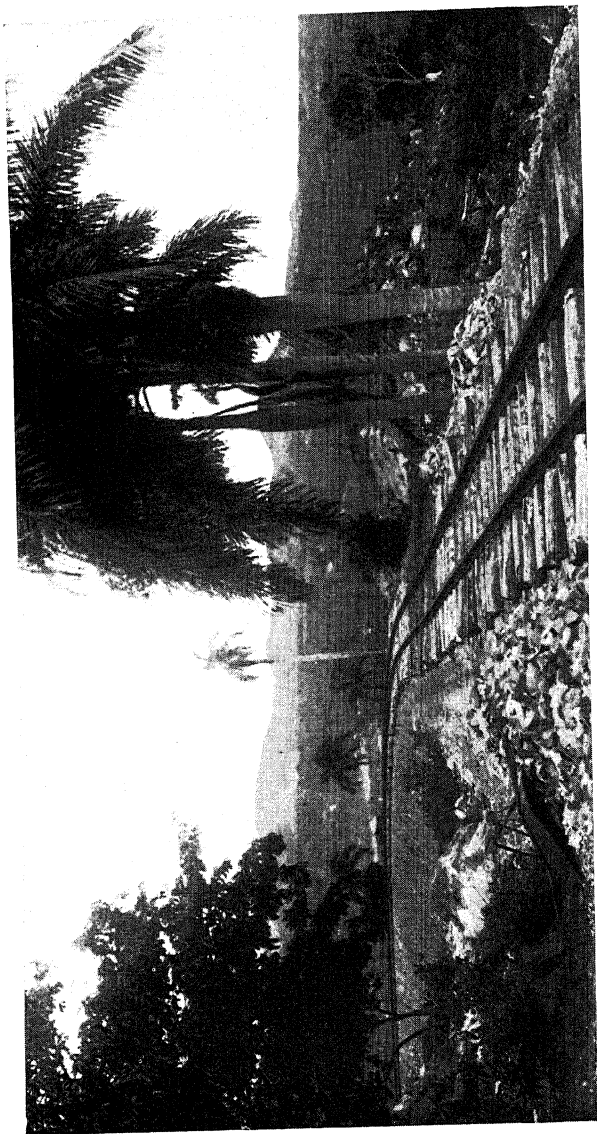
In this particular it is opportune to mention especially the Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, which have worked continuously with great enthusiasm and experience, and have lent most efficient aid whenever necessary. Equally, the Chambers have received the cooperation of the Secretariat of State, and the protection of the Government for the better development of their important labors. On November 14, 1935, law No. 1028 was promulgated, which is the organic law of Official Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, and its provisions give a wide range to the activities of these organizations. During the year 1935 the subsidy given by the Government to the Chambers of Commerce in the Republic rose to \$45,112.11.

In the matter of foreign commerce the delicate and difficult efforts made have not been less fruitful in practical results. To this end important efforts have been made by the Secretariat of State in the six months of its existence.

The preparation of crops for export has received special attention, since it is necessary for best results with these in foreign markets that in addition to high intrinsic quality there be adequate presentation and honest selection. Law No. 581 regarding the preparation of crops is the basic law in this matter, and in interpretation of it there have been dictated by the Executive Power in the last six months, regulations for the preparation and export of cacao, for the preparation, sale and export of tobacco, for the preparation of coffee, and for the cutting, handling and classification of bananas for export. A corps of inspectors of fruits and vegetables, the instructors of Agriculture and the Chambers



Ramfis Bridge, over the Iguazú River. This structure, the largest suspension bridge in Latin America, is representative of the modern means of communication established in the Dominican Republic under President Trujillo.



Transportation facilities, sadly crippled prior to the inauguration of President Trujillo, have been completely rehabilitated, and railroads today penetrate regions hitherto inaccessible. The above view gives an indication of the solidity of roadbeds built in hilly territory.

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of Commerce cooperate efficiently with this Secretariat of State for the most efficient application of this law and its regulations, and we can say that the progress made in this delicate aspect of our exports has been appreciable.

Foreign commerce during the year just finished was as follows:

1935	
Exports .....	\$15,530,975.45
Imports (Estimated) .....	9,690,352.00
Favorable balance .....	5,840,623.45
1934	
Exports .....	\$12,894,636.00
Imports .....	10,574,344.00
Favorable balance .....	2,320,292.00

Exports in 1935 showed an increase over those of 1934 of \$2,636,339.45, and the favorable balance in 1935 exceeded that of 1934 by \$3,520,331.45. All this represents an appreciable increase in the volume of mercantile operations of all kinds during the last year, as well as an increase in the buying power of the people, and in the reestablishing of the normal economy toward which we are proceeding with firm steps, in spite of the unfavorable conditions still prevalent in the world.

### *Industry*

The development of national industry has been one of the aims pursued by the Government with the greatest zeal. The growth of the population of the Republic, the influx of great numbers of inhabitants from rural zones to the cities, the necessity to find work for these people,

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and the no less important necessity of encouraging by all reasonable means the development of domestic production of those articles used by the nation, whose manufacture in the Republic is desirable and possible, demanded the adoption of steps which permitted the establishment of some of these industries, and the extension and improvement of others.

Diverse laws of great social and economic value have been lately dictated in relation to these questions.

One of them, No. 830, covering Industrial Exemptions, has the splendid purpose of giving a strong stimulus to the widespread industrial spirit which in the last few years has been inculcated in new branches of production by the Government, giving tax exemptions in the following cases:

- (a) To new industries;
- (b) to those already established which fulfil certain conditions; and
- (c) to those using potential sources of hydraulic power or producing electric energy with determined purposes.

Others, like No. 939 and No. 952, are of great industrial-economic importance, as the first permits an easier development to established industries in their regular activities, by granting them a reduction of 50 per cent in import duties on basic materials; and the second, No. 952, filled a long-felt want, that of providing that the cost of production of articles manufactured here and exported be lowered to limits which make possible competition on an advantageous basis with similar articles

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in foreign markets, maintaining and increasing with this the quantity exported of these articles.

Under the protection of these laws, many new industries have been established, for one thing, and for another, their possibilities have been extended—and many of them have made use of their opportunities—for many firms already established formerly had only limited opportunities.

The following types of industries are being developed in the nation: lumber, needlework (clothes, hats, stockings and socks), skins, alcohol products, perfumes and cosmetics, electric and mechanical plants, building material, mills, for grinding and husking, tobacco products, sugar cane and derived products, beverages and refreshments, chocolates, candies and confectionery, goods derived from cattle, goods derived from grease, and other industries.

Of these industries, many use large quantities of raw materials of the nation, with which a stable market is provided without ruinous competition from foreign goods.

The Secretariat of State of Commerce and Industry has given tax exemptions, in accordance with Law No. 830, to the following industries: (a) manufacturers of tooth paste and cosmetics; (b) manufacturers of boxes, cartons, etc.; (c) manufacturers of water color paintings; (d) manufacturers of liquids, pastes and polishes for shoes; (e) production of lard, hams, bacon, and meat products in general.

Special attention has also been given to industrial education, to sea and river fishing, to the hunting of

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wild game and animals, to the registration and classification of industries for the purpose of making statistics, and to industrial expositions.

Various industrial expositions have taken place in the months during which the Secretariat has been in existence, such as the industrial animal exposition at Azua and that of Bani, and particularly that of hats, shoes and clothes held in this capital on October 24, 1935, which had great success, demonstrating the capacity, the efficiency and the good taste which today predominate in the important national industries which exhibited at the exposition.

Although there is wanting much data not yet furnished by some industries, the registry of industrial statistics carried on in the Secretariat of State show the following facts, which reveal the high standing which industrial activities have in the nation.

### *Industrial Statistical Survey for the First Eleven Months of 1935*

1. Industrial establishments registered....	1,683
2. Value of industrial products.....	\$3,733,836.25
3. Value of raw materials:	
(a) Domestic .....	\$ 893,456.73
(b) Foreign .....	1,991,293.99
Total .....	\$2,974,750.72
4. Value of combustibles and electric energy .....	\$414,067.72
5. Monthly average of horse power used..	26,699.75



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6. Monthly average of employees and laborers .....	24,522
7. Monthly average of salaries and wages.	\$598,124.48
8. Total salaries and wages.....	\$6,555,219.12

### HEALTH AND CHARITY

#### *Hygiene of the Nation*

Just as in former years, no epidemic has occurred in the nation during the year 1935, nor in the nations which maintain trade relations with ours, which would have made it necessary to take rigorous sanitary measures, with the exception of Puerto Rico, where two incipient epidemics were stopped.

The sanitation of the nation, carried on in the last few years, and which has been so beneficial for the health of the nation and has earned a splendid reputation in foreign countries, continued actively during the year 1935, with the accomplishment of important engineering works, including canals, dredging and other works which have made it possible to transform marshy and unhealthful regions, stricken constantly with malaria, into cultivated fields cared for by healthy and happy men.

This linked the improvement of service in the Sanitary Campaign and the cleaning service of communities, the creation of Sanitary Weeks, the greater increase in charity services, and the intensification of the Prophylactic Campaign—all these measures making possible our advancing many steps toward the betterment of national sanitation which the Administration works

for, as an indispensable condition of its progress, for without health there can not be work, and there would not be wealth.

Endemic ills have been reduced by the activities of the Sanitary Brigades, which, combined with the lack of epidemics, have made possible a notable increase in population. The increase in the year 1935 over 1934 is 6,689, with a coefficient of increase for each thousand inhabitants of 25.76 and 25.45 for the years 1935 and 1934 respectively.

### *Struggle Against Endemic Illness*

Fortunately our island is privileged by nature in counting on only a very small group of illnesses in the extensive tropical pathology. Malaria, uncinariasis and pian are the three predominating in our Republic. Hectogomia (*aedes aegyptis*) is not found here, nor yellow fever, nor many other diseases which are prevalent in the tropical zone.

### *Malaria*

During the year 1935 much was done to combat malaria. Above all, entire regions have been drained and converted into cultivated fields where formerly there were enormous marshes, breeding grounds of mosquitoes which made these regions eminently malarial.

### *Second Medical Congress*

On the evening of October 12th, 1935, the Second Dominican Medical Congress was opened, in accordance

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with Decree No. 1066, dictated by the Executive Power on September 13, 1934, with the sole purpose of giving prestige to the nation and to stimulate the unification of the medical men of the nation and their dedication to the active study of our endemic illnesses, for the useful end of increasing the value and extent of the sanitary services maintained by the Government to better the health of the nation.

### *Cleaning Service in the Republic*

In spite of a relatively small amount of money dedicated to this work, it has been very ably handled, and has maintained the best sanitary conditions throughout the Republic. During the year there have been many improvements in personnel and equipment.

As is the custom every year, during the months of February, August and December, the cleaning service of the capital was augmented by a corps of forty men for a special cleaning campaign, including the elimination of weeds, etc.

Also in many other communities these special campaigns were carried on.

The Sanitary Weeks were inaugurated in 1935 by the Secretariat of Health and Charity, with the purpose of bringing all the cities of the Republic up to the splendid standard of the capital, Trujillo City, and these special campaigns have had much success, not only in improving the appearance of the cities, but in increasing notably their hygienic and sanitary conditions.

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### PUBLIC EDUCATION AND FINE ARTS

#### *New Schools of Domestic Economy and the Importance of Their Work*

In accord with the purpose of organizing our educational system in the most practical way, there have been created the Schools of Domestic Economy in Trujillo City, Santiago and San Pedro de Macoris.

The number of these schools was augmented during the past year with the creation of a new school in San Cristobal on March 15, 1935, and another in Samana, which has been in operation since September 16, 1934.

In January, 1935, courses in Domestic Economy were begun in the Graduate Schools of Monte Cristi, Puerto Plata, La Vega, San Francisco de Macoris, Moca, Bani, Azua, Barahona, Seybo and San Juan de la Maguana, as it has not yet been possible to establish entire schools so far in these communities.

Thanks to these new schools and to the courses begun in this field of vocational education, linked to the Schools of Domestic Economy of Trujillo City, Santiago and San Pedro de Macoris, the social benefits received by the Dominican people from this new educational system are considerable, a complement of the educational work performed by the primary and secondary schools.

#### *Usefulness of Work of the Schools of Manual Arts*

A new aspect of education, of useful and practical character, is represented by the creation of the Schools of Manual Arts, attended by graduates of the boys' grade schools, and the masculine students of the nor-

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mal schools, to receive training in the manual arts. Thus they are enabled to acquire not a trade alone, but the complementary knowledge to the intellectual culture which has been given them in the primary and secondary schools.

Of this new type of active and practical schools, one already exists in Trujillo City, capital of the Republic, which possesses adequate equipment for its functions, and another in Santiago de los Caballeros, recently founded. Besides this, courses in Manual Arts have been begun in the boys' grade schools of San Cristobal, Bayaguana, Azua, Barahona, San Pedro de Macoris, El Seybo, La Vega, San Francisco de Macoris, Samana, Puerto Plata, Moca and Monte Cristi, in which at present two or more important courses in Manual Arts are carried on.

### *School of Arts and Crafts—Its Recent Creation and Its Functioning*

The School of Arts and Crafts is one of the most important educational projects brought into life by the present Government.

It occupies a magnificent modern building, in two wings, with an area of more than 24,000 square meters.

Besides the cost of the land, the Government spent \$40,000 for the building, and \$5,600 for equipment and furniture.

This institution will function under excellent pedagogical and hygienic conditions, and the equipment with which it has been furnished makes it equal to any school of the same type in foreign countries.

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The School of Arts and Crafts will accomplish a distinct purpose from the Schools of Manual Arts. Its work will be to train experts in the different fields of education it covers, entirely technical, such as carpenters, cabinetmakers, electricians, tailors, shoemakers, etc., while the Schools of Manual Arts limit their work to developing in graduates of the primary and secondary schools talents of a practical nature, stimulating in them a desire for individual vocations, and familiarizing them with the tools and apparatus in common use in manual arts and crafts.

For the formation of the student body of the School of Arts and Crafts, which opened in January of this year, it was decided to select in each province a certain number of boys whose conduct and ability were adapted to the educational facilities offered.

On selecting the candidates from each province the thought was borne in mind not to select boys entirely from cities, but also those from rural districts.

### *Importance of Work Done by the Frontier Schools*

In conformity with the plan of studies for Frontier Schools, dated January 9, 1935, ten schools were created on the frontier.

Competent instructors are in charge of these schools and bear the title of Normal Master of Secondary Education; the Frontier Schools are called upon to administer instruction which intensifies the love of the native soil, and whatever else is a manifestation of the national character.

Traveling instructors in choral music are used in

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these schools, and they follow the plan developed in "La Patria en la Cancion," the official textbook of singing for all the schools of the Republic.

The moral and patriotic value of these schools is evident in the work they accomplish, particularly as they aid in the preservation of national customs and characteristics, in accord with the high ideology and the elevated purposes which are the standards of the Administration.

### *Free Courses for Servants and Their Success in the Educational System*

One of the most satisfying successes of the new educational system has been the establishment of free courses for servants, following an adequate program of studies, and today a considerable number of girls from poor districts and the country are receiving the benefits of these courses; these girls are learning the technique of household duties, whereas before they lacked even the most elementary knowledge of hygiene and of the work necessary in attending to household duties.

In this way these modest little workers, formerly entirely ignorant, are now acquiring indispensable knowledge for carrying on their chosen work.

The success achieved by the creation of these courses is notable.

### *Progress of Agricultural Education and Extension of School Gardens*

During the past year the school gardens have attained considerable importance in the Republic. The school

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population, not only that portion that attends the rural primary schools, but also the pupils in the urban schools, have made notable progress in agricultural education. The practical results could not have been more satisfactory. Today there is on deposit with the National City Bank of New York the amount realized by the small sales of the students in the course of last year. The sum is naturally small, but it represents the actual labor of these children, the gardens which were sown by them with their own hands at school. Independently of the training in agricultural science given in this way to pupils, who are thus instructed in a field which has the greatest importance in a nation in which agriculture constitutes one of the principal sources of wealth, the teachers take advantage, in accordance with the new plan of studies, of the opportunity to give practical teaching in economics, based on actual examples of price differentials, supply and demand, etc.

### *Increase in School Population*

The registration of students in all the schools of the Republic since September 15, 1934, the day on which schools opened, could not have been more gratifying, as it has shown a progressive increase of 36,576 pupils up to the month of July, 1935.

In the month of September, 1935, the total registration was 75,016; in October, 86,006; and in November, 92,418. At the same rate of increase as last year, the total by this next June should be more than 120,000, but so far the rate of increase is even greater.

Thus it can be seen that there has been a great increase in the school population of the Republic, which



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evidences the success attained by the new educational system.

### JUSTICE

The Secretariat of State of Justice was re-established on January 1, 1935, and has accomplished a great and beneficial labor for the nation in matters relating to its work under the law.

#### *New Edition of Codes*

Every day the need is more keenly felt for the printing in revised form of the penal, civil and commercial codes, and the code of procedure, containing the reforms and additions to which they have been subject, with the end of forming one single body of legislation, thus avoiding the inconvenience which now exists, because of the need of connecting reforms with laws which are difficult to locate in the Official Gazettes in which they were published.

#### *Crime*

As a matter of special importance, the Secretariat of State announces that, in accordance with its last memorandum on the subject, and the statistics contained therein, there has been a considerable decrease in crime during 1935, undoubtedly because of the sureness with which crime has been prosecuted and punished, with the aid of the national army, which has been the best adjunct in this field.

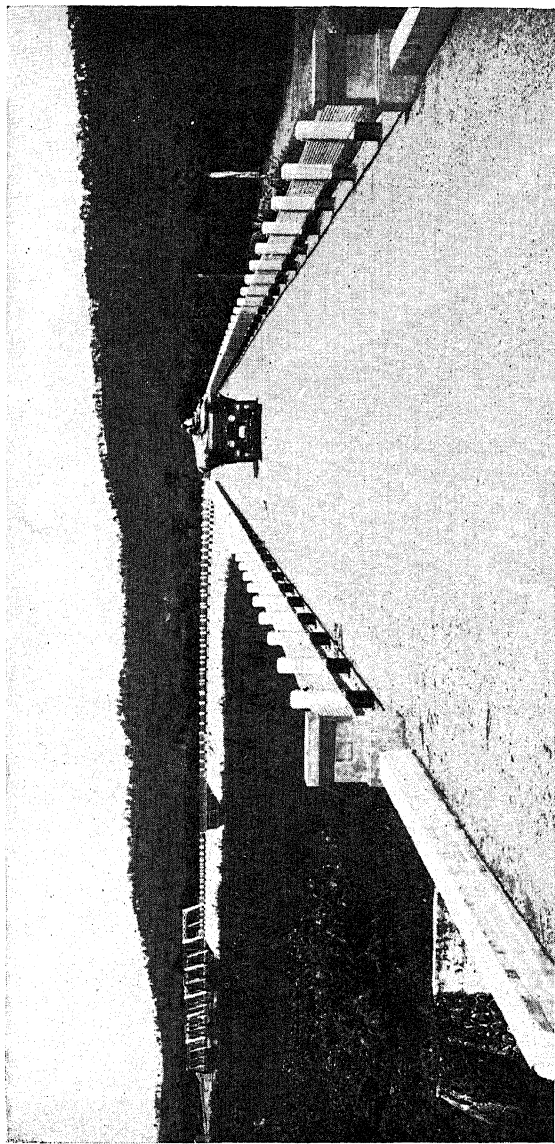
RAFAEL L. TRUJILLO.



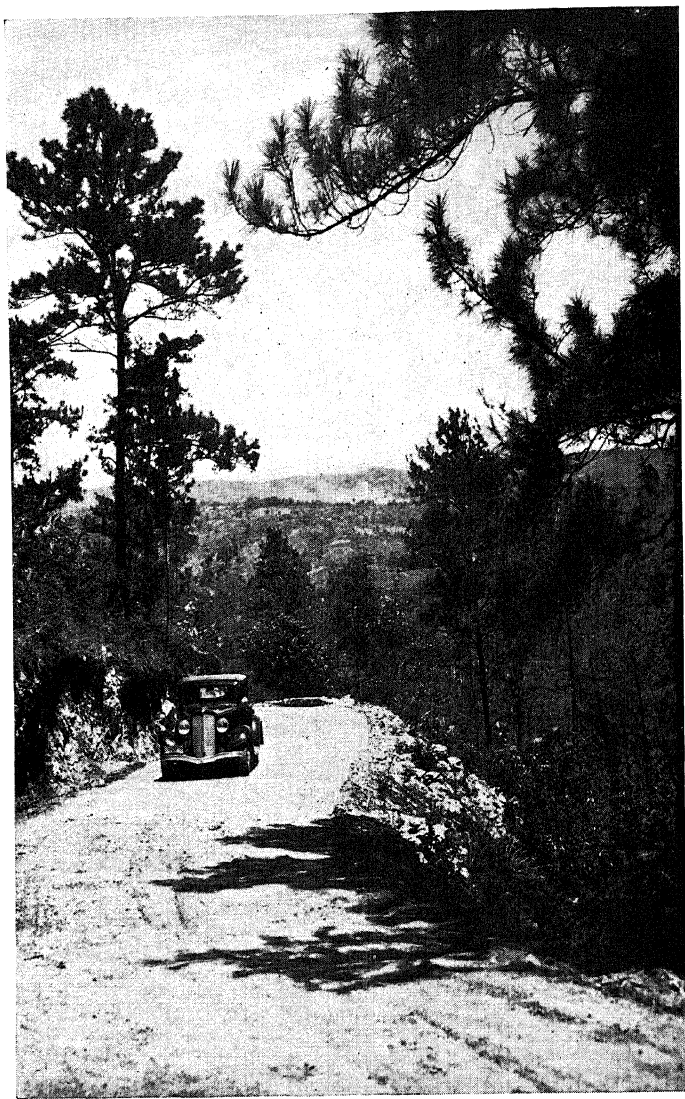
# Chapter X

## The Public Works Program





A view of the southern approach to Generalísimo Trujillo Bridge, over the Yuna River. The paved highway is typical of the excellent road conditions in the Dominican Republic. Many splendid highways in the Dominican Republic form part of the vast public works program of President Trujillo.



A view of the highway from La Vega to Jarabacoa. Excellent macadam and asphalt roads exist and are now under construction throughout the Dominican Republic, under the progressive leadership of President Trujillo.

## Chapter X

### THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAM

THE constructive work accomplished by the administration of President Trujillo in the field of public works and communications is evidenced throughout the entire Dominican Republic, and has amounted to an actual reconstruction of the country. The postal and electrical communications that have been established, and the highways, bridges, docks, public buildings, etc., that have been constructed are an outstanding demonstration of the development reached in these important sectors of public service during the last five years of the administration of President Trujillo.

The general care of postal and electrical communications has been well regulated through Decree No. 1153, of December 27th, 1934, which establishes administrative and technical supervision.

Postal service has been considerably improved through equipping of post offices, altering routes to make the service more rapid and frequent, using the most modern means of transportation for the carrying of mail, and creating new routes, both domestic and to foreign countries, whenever such new routes have been found necessary.

During the administration of President Trujillo postal service has been increased through the establishment of maritime and aerial routes assuring the regular inter-

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change of mail. The steamers of the New York and Porto Rico Line visit Trujillo City weekly, carrying mail to and from New York; in the same way steamers of other lines touch at the other ports of the Republic monthly, also carrying and delivering foreign mail. Airmail service with the United States, Central and South America is provided by the Panamerican Airways, whose clippers visit the country four times weekly, landing at San Pedro de Macoris, about forty miles from Trujillo City.

There are at this time in the Republic twenty postal and telegraph offices; 87 postal and telegraph agencies; and 128 rural routes. Postal service is on a daily schedule between cities and towns, and on a two-day schedule in smaller localities. Deliveries are made, with rare exceptions, by automobile, and with splendid efficiency, an example of which is the fact that, with a circulation in February of this year of \$150,526 in money orders, not one cent was lost or miscarried.

If the intense efforts of President Trujillo to augment and improve the postal service have been successful, they have been no less so in the perfection and extension of electrical communications. In 1930, when the new President came into office, telephone service was entirely inadequate. Today the nation enjoys excellent service.

The Government has rented to the Dominican Telephone Company 1,078 kilometers of lines in various sections of the country. Since 1934 the Secretariat of Communications has taken over the work of reconstructing all telephone circuits owned by the Government, and the creation of new ones between communities in need of



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them. In accordance with this plan 1,323 kilometers of lines have been reconstructed, and 414 kilometers have been newly built.

Including lines owned by the Government and operated by it, as well as those rented, the national Government network totals 2,815 kilometers, assuring rapid and inexpensive communication among all the communities of the Republic, with 100 stations open for public use. Another feature of the service today is the installation during the administration of President Trujillo and sponsored by him of automatic telephone systems of the most modern type which facilitate and guarantee the rapid interchange of long distance calls among the principal cities of the Republic and other nations.

The progress in radio communication has been equally notable. During the past five years, three new radio telegraph stations have been placed in public service, and the previously existing stations have been improved and modernized. Today the nation enjoys the benefits of seven official stations, four of them using both long and short waves, in the Cities of Trujillo City, San Pedro de Macoris, Puerto Plata, Monte Cristy, Santiago, Bonao, and San Cristobal. In addition there is a powerful Government broadcasting station, also using long and short waves, located in Trujillo City. There are also 19 privately owned commercial broadcasting stations, subsidized by the Government and pledged to the diffusion of knowledge and culture throughout the nation. There are also nine amateur stations.

Recently a radio telephonic station for international communication, owned by the Dominican Telephone Company, has been opened.

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The Dominican Government invested \$374,650 in postal and electrical communications in 1934, and \$399,424 in 1935.

The attention of the entire world has been attracted by the vast program of public works carried on by President Trujillo. After an amazing series of accomplishments in his first term, an even more ambitious program was outlined by him in a four-year plan first announced in September, 1933, containing 92 separate projects. This plan comprises highways, bridges, ports, docks, irrigating canals, public buildings, beautification of cities, etc. At the time these words are written 51 of these projects have been completed or are on the point of completion, at a total cost of \$3,962,094,070. The greatest emphasis has been on highways and bridges.

Since coming into office President Trujillo has repaired and reconstructed 1,673 kilometers of existing highways. In this work, accomplished in 54 months, the sum of \$1,068,427,042 was invested. During the last two years the following highways have been constructed:

Hato Mayor-Sabana de la Mar

(Presidente Trujillo) .....	45ks	\$159,902.85
Santiago-Janico .....	25	33,808.85
San Cristobal-La Toma.....	6	18,850.38
Carretera Sanchez-Cambita.....	11½	3,000.00
Rincon-Cotui .....	33½	14,400.27
San Francisco de Macoris-Salcedo	22	8,529.22
	133	\$238,491.57

and there are being constructed and to be finished soon:

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Las Matas de Farfan-El Cer-		
cado (final budget) .....	19	\$24,756.19
La Vega-Jarabacoa .....	27	59,565.12
Monte Cristy-Dajabon .....	34	39,000.00
Santiago-Baitoa (invested up to		
now) .....	22	20,000.00
	102	\$143,321.31
Total kilometers and investment	235	\$381,812.88

The economy with which this highway building has been accomplished is remarkable. An example of this is that in the administration of President Vasquez, the sum of \$165,333.78 was spent in paving 7 kilometers and grading 10 more. The 45 kilometers of this highway have now been constructed completely at a total cost of \$159,902.85, which means an average of \$3,553.00. On the construction of 8 kilometers of the Monte Cristy-Dajabon highway, the Vasquez administration spent \$277,686.19, an average of \$34,710.77 per kilometer. Now the 34 kilometers of this highway are being constructed at a total cost of \$39,000, an average of \$1,147.00 per kilometer. These comparative costs are representative of the entire highway program.

The building of bridges is another important part of the reconstruction program of President Trujillo. Up to the beginning of 1936, the sum of \$1,275,067.55 had been spent in repairs, reconstruction, and construction of new bridges. The expenditures for repairs and reconstruction were \$103,555.52. The costs of construction of permanent steel and concrete bridges follows:

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1. Generalísimo Trujillo, over the Yuna River .....	\$149,851.77
2. San Rafael, over the Yaque del Norte River .....	191,839.00
3. Yubaso, over the Yubaso River.....	28,816.24
4. Ramfis, over the Macoris River.....	334,448.01
5. Jose Trujillo Valdes, over the Bani River .....	63,200.00
6. Lucas Diaz, over the Nizao River.....	179,249.37
7. Julia Molina, over the Ocoa River.....	194,107.64
	<hr/>
	\$1,141,512.03

During the year of 1936 three more bridges are being built, at a cost of \$156,165.00. These bridges are over the Camu, Chavon and Sanate Rivers.

In order to connect the eastern part of the country with the rest of the Republic, reconstruction was undertaken and completed of portions of the steel bridge over the Ozama River in Santo Domingo, which had been destroyed by the hurricane of 1930 and provisionally repaired with a light structure of wood with steel cables.

This reconstruction followed the original lines of the bridge. Besides this, the iron railing along the entire length of the bridge was reconstructed, as well as the concrete balustrades on both sides and at the approaches, and galvanized iron lighting poles were constructed and installed. In the part of the structure not demolished by the hurricane there was a good deal of replacement of metal ruined by rust, and many rivets had to be replaced.

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The entire structure was painted with aluminum, and one end leveled, as it had sunk five inches due to the sinking of a supporting pillar.

With the construction of the steel Generalísimo Trujillo Bridge over the Yuna River in Bonao, there was solved one of the gravest problems formerly presented by the heavy rainfalls, when the Yuna River in its impetuous and swollen force would destroy the large wooden bridge that connected precariously the northern and southern parts of the country, thus isolating them from each other for extended periods until traffic could be restored.

The Generalísimo Trujillo Bridge, inaugurated August 14, 1934, consists of three luces of steel framework, each 150 feet long, or a total of 450 feet, with a width of 18 feet.

The substructure consists of two buttresses and two concrete pillars, which raise the bridge to a height of 15 feet above the level of the river. As the borders of the river are low, it was necessary to raise the level of the highway on both sides over a distance of 400 meters and to make corresponding ramparts on the sides, protecting them with a layer of rocks held in place with cement. A fence of metal mesh was built along the entire length of the ramparts, supported by concrete posts, for the protection of traffic.

On September 24, 1933, President Trujillo inaugurated the first suspension bridge erected in the Dominican Republic. This, the San Rafael Bridge, over the Yaque del Norte River at the Guayacanes passage, has met a tremendous national need, that of connecting with the

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Duarte Highway the large stretches of land under cultivation on the left side of the Yaque del Norte River in the Mao region, whose products formerly had no other outlet than an ancient boat of uncertain efficiency, and which became almost useless during the season of heavy rains when the river became swollen.

The suspension type of bridge was decided upon because the Yaque del Norte River has a heavy current and rises very high during the rainy season, making impractical the construction of a straight bridge supported by buttresses and central pillars. The bridge has a length of 800 feet and a principal luz of 451 feet, with towers 67 feet above the shore level, and is provided with a steel floor held firm by soldering, and also soldered to the braces. The surface is made of channels and asphalt blocks, making a highway 18 feet wide, strengthened to resist the strong heat of the tropical sun in these latitudes; the passage is 36 feet higher than the normal level of the river, and 10 feet higher than the greatest height of the water in the past.

In raising the bridge to an appropriate height it was necessary to construct long approaches on both sides, protecting them in part with a rock layer held in place with cement at the sides, and building a metal mesh fence on each side supported by concrete posts, for the protection of vehicles.

May 18, 1934, President Trujillo had the satisfaction of inaugurating the Ramfis Suspension Bridge over the Higuamo River.

This is the crystallization of another of those national dreams whose realization seemed impossible for gen-

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erations. It is a work of great importance in the national life, as it unites the capital with the extensive and rich eastern section of the nation, in which there are various important cities and towns like San Pedro de Macoris, La Romana, El Seybo, Higüey, Hato Mayo, etc.

Ramfis Bridge, which substitutes for the archaic ferry across the Higuamo River, is the largest suspension bridge in the Antilles and Central America. It has a length of 1,044 feet, a width of highway of 20 feet, and its height is 72 feet above the level of the river. The height of its towers is 119 feet above the shore line, and like the San Rafael Bridge, it is provided with a steel floor held firm by soldering, and also by soldering to the braces; the surface, also, is made of channels and asphalt blocks as proof against the tropical heat.

As the bridge is in a region subject to cyclones, it is designed to resist a wind force of 70 pounds per foot multiplied by one and a half times the surface of the vertical projection of the bridge, plus a vertical force of wind 12 degrees from horizontal. Few structures are designed for such a heavy attack, but the recent experience of the hurricane that lashed the capital justified this precaution.

The Jose Trujillo Valdez Bridge, inaugurated by President Trujillo on January 26, 1935, consists of two sections of steel framework, each 135 feet long, and an approach, also of steel, 50 feet long, making a total length of 310 feet.

Its surface, of reinforced concrete with a coating of asphalt, is nine feet above the highest level ever at-

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tained by the river, and is a two-way highway, 18 feet wide. To protect against a cleft on the eastern side a solid wall of rock mixed with mortar and cement was built, and on the western end, the Bani side, to protect the long and high approach to the bridge, there was also constructed a solid wall on each side of the approach for a length of more than 160 meters. This wall terminates in a parapet for the protection of vehicles.

Thanks to the itanic efforts of President Trujillo, the turbulent Nizao River will no longer present the inconveniences and dangers which existed with the temporary wooden bridge that formerly crossed the river. On June 23, 1935, the new steel bridge known as the Lucas Diaz Bridge was inaugurated to replace the large wooden bridge. This bridge has five sections of steel framework, each 130 feet long, and also two steel approach sections 75 feet in length apiece, making a total length of 725 feet. The surface of reinforced concrete is 10 feet higher than the highest level ever registered by the river, and 13 feet higher than the former wooden bridge. Two platforms have been built at the entrances for the protection of traffic, as well as balustrades made of concrete and steel pipes.

To allow egress for the products of the rich territories situated north of the Sanchez Highway and east of the city of San Cristobal, the La Toma Highway has been constructed, with a length of six kilometers and comprising three provisional wooden bridges and ten conduits.

Besides its great value to agriculture and commerce, this new highway has great importance for tourist travel, as it reaches an enchanting spot called La Toma, where



## THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAM

there is a dam, built in bygone days, with a resulting waterfall that has created a deep pool now used as a bathing pavilion; the natural beauty of the spot is vast.

To give an outlet for the products of the fertile regions located south of the town of Mao a highway six kilometers long has been constructed, reaching San Rafael. This highway includes four wooden bridges and two conduits, and is now being extended 11 kilometers to reach the Gurabo section.

To provide an outlet for the products of the extensive Janico region, which formerly had no good roads during the rainy season, a highway, 24 kilometers in length, was built. This route includes a wooden bridge over the Zalaya River and a bridge with concrete supports over the Pastor stream.

This new way of communication between Hato Mayor and Sabana de la Mar makes contact easy between the country and the very beautiful Bahia de Samana, and forms because of the picturesque and rich regions it traverses a highway of exceptional beauties and importance. Inaugurated July 7, 1935, Presidente Trujillo Highway offers tourists a site for recreation and amusement, and to farmers and workers rich agricultural properties in which large estates are owned by the Government. This highway is 45 kilometers long, and includes ten provisional wooden bridges, two of concrete, and one viaduct of concrete.

For many years the expenses of exploitation and maintenance of the Central Dominican Railroad, which crosses the Septentrional Cordilleras, connecting the cities of Moca and Santiago with the port of Puerto Plata, rep-

## PRESIDENT TRUJILLO AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

resented an annual loss of importance. One of the principal reasons for this heavy cost was the existence on the line of a section five kilometers long in which the grade varied from 10.5 per cent to 13 per cent.

Now President Trujillo has introduced numerous administrative reforms and a strict economy of operation which have eliminated losses and made possible the building of a reserve fund with which construction has been completed of a detour avoiding the steep grades mentioned above. This detour was inaugurated May 18, 1935, by President Trujillo, assuring a regular service free from danger and a work of the greatest public interest. This portion of the new line is twelve kilometers long, with a maximum grade of 3 per cent.

The outstanding project is that of the new port at Trujillo City, described in the last chapter. This is considered as the culmination of the public works program of President Trujillo.

Besides the projects already described, there are many others. In the last 18 months alone the building of the School of Arts and Crafts of Trujillo City has been constructed, and building housing the Chamber of Deputies has been reconstructed. In both Trujillo City and Santiago de los Caballeros the Palace of the Senate and Palace of Executive power have been repaired. Twenty-seven kilometers of streets in Trujillo City have been built, at a cost of \$109,103.25, and nineteen kilometers of streets in Santiago at a cost of \$53,103.00. The historical ruins of Trujillo City have been beautified, and a flower conservatory has been constructed at a cost of \$12,000.

The port of San Pedro de Macoris has been improved,

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at a cost of \$90,000. The sum of \$13,000 has been invested in reconstructing the wharves of Azua, San Pedro de Macoris, and Monte Cristy. Up to the beginning of 1936, \$60,995.85 were spent in the construction of the Avenida Presidente Trujillo (now being renamed Avenida George Washington), Ramfis Park, and a new municipal cemetery in Trujillo City.

The Dominican Government invested in new public works projects, and in the operation of public works, the sum of \$1,411,446.87 in 1934, and \$1,706,084.77 in 1935.

The great work done by President Trujillo, achieving a material development of the nation through the execution of a plan of public works, is remarkable not only in itself, but also for the fact that to accomplish it he has not resorted to loans which might compromise the economic future of the Republic, for the current funds of the nation, wisely administered, have been sufficient for all needs.

The four-year plan, now in operation, follows:

### FOUR-YEAR PLAN OF PUBLIC WORKS

To Be Carried Out Beginning in January, 1934.

(Projects marked with \* were completed on or before July 1, 1935.)

### HIGHWAYS

From Azua to Barahona.

From Barahona to Neyba to Duverge.

From Barahona to Enriquillo.

From Las Matas de Farfan to El Cercado.

## PRESIDENT TRUJILLO AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

From Trujillo City to Villa Mella, to Yamaza, to Monte Plata, to La Victoria, to Boya, to Bayaguana.

\*From Santiago to Janico.

\*From Monte Cristy to Dajabon.

From Dajabon to Restauracion.

From Guayabin to Sabaneta.

From Puerto Plata to Blanco.

From San Francisco de Macoris to Pimentel, to Villa Rivas, to Sanchez.

\*From Hato Mayor to Sabana de la Mar (completion).

From Salcedo to San Francisco de Macoris.

\*From La Vega to Jarabacoa.

From Bonao to San Jose de Ocoa.

From Sanchez to Samana.

From Seybo to Pedro Sanchez, to Jovero.

From Cotui to Boya.

From Mao to Guayabin.

From Mao to Moncion.

From Moca to Puerto Grande.

## BRIDGES

\*Over the Higuamo River, San Pedro de Macoris.

\*Over the Chabon River, in Seybo.

\*Over the Ozama River, on the Villa Mella Highway.

\*Over the Ozama River, on the Casino road.

\*Over the Soco River, in Seybo.

\*Over the Nizao River, Santo Domingo Province.

\*Over the Sanate River, Higüey, Seybo Province.

Over the Bulla River.

\*At Bani, Santo Domingo Province.

# THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAM

## BUILDINGS

Palace of Justice, Trujillo City.....	\$200,000.00
Palace of Justice, Santiago.....	100,000.00
*Chamber of Deputies Building.....	60,000.00
Repairs to the National Palace.....	50,000.00
Repairs to the Senate Palace.....	20,000.00
University .....	100,000.00
*School of Arts and Crafts, Trujillo City....	30,000.00
School of Arts and Crafts, Santiago.....	30,000.00
Normal School, Santiago.....	20,000.00
Public Offices in San Pedro de Macoris....	80,000.00
Public Offices in La Romana.....	25,000.00
Public Offices in Seybo.....	40,000.00
Public Offices in Barahona.....	40,000.00
Public Offices in Azua.....	30,000.00
Public Offices in San Francisco de Macoris.	40,000.00
Fire Department, Trujillo City.....	30,000.00
*Children's Hospital, Trujillo City.....	60,000.00
Sanatorium, Trujillo City.....	60,000.00
*San Cristobal Hospital.....	25,000.00
*San Cristobal Schoolhouse.....	25,000.00
Reform School at San Cristobal.....	30,000.00
Hospital, San Francisco de Macoris.....	30,000.00
Gynecological Hospital, Trujillo City.....	40,000.00
Gynecological Hospital, Santiago .....	40,000.00
Public Offices in Monte Cristy.....	30,000.00
Fifty (50) Schoolhouses in Principal Towns	200,000.00
One Hundred (100) Schoolhouses on the frontier .....	200,000.00
Slaughter-house, Trujillo City	
Two buildings for public markets, Trujillo City	

## PRESIDENT TRUJILLO AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Building for public market, Santiago	
Fifty (50) Barracks for army posts.....	100,000.00
Insane Asylum, Santiago	
National Theater Building, Trujillo City...	300,000.00
Reconstruction of Historical Ruins.....	100,000.00
Public Park and Monument to Columbus...	100,000.00
Additions to Executive Palace, Santiago....	20,000.00
Addition to Fort and Barracks at Monte Cristy .....	60,000.00
Additions to Public Buildings, Dajabon....	20,000.00
Additions to Public Buildings, Comendador.	20,000.00
Aqueduct, San Pedro de Macoris	
Aqueduct, San Cristobal .....	30,000.00
Aqueduct, La Vega	
Aqueduct, San Francisco de Macoris	
Aqueduct, Lo Romana.....	50,000.00
Conduits at Trujillo City (completion)	
Repairs to Aqueduct, Monte Cristy.....	20,000.00
*Paving of Streets in Santiago and other cities .....	300,000.00
Drilling of 200 wells, construction of con- crete tanks, watering places for cattle and windmills in various sites	
Wharf Repairs, Trujillo City	
*Wharf Repairs, San Pedro de Macoris	
Repairs to Aqueduct, Trujillo City	

### MISCELLANEOUS

Construction of Airports at Trujillo City and Santiago .....	100,000.00
Agricultural Schools .....	100,000.00
*For Agricultural development (annually)..	100,000.00

## THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAM

Enlarging of irrigation canals and construction of new ones (annually).....	100,000.00
*Rerouting and Improvements for the Central Dominican Railroad (annually).....	200,000.00
Radio Broadcasting Station .....	50,000.00
*New Equipment for Public Works.....	200,000.00
Dredging at the ports of Trujillo City, San Pedro de Macoris, Puerto Plata, Monte Cristy, Sanchez, Barahona and La Romana	300,000.00
Acquisition of Dredge.....	300,000.00
Reconstruction of the Puerta del Conde and Commemorative Monument	
New Port and Docks at Trujillo City.....	3,000,000.00





# Chapter XI

## Agriculture, Industry and Commerce



## Chapter XI

### AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

UNTIL a very few years ago, the words industry and agriculture were almost meaningless in the Dominican Republic, except for rhetorical use. They represented either the aspirations of visionaries, or springboards from which politicians striving for power could launch grandiloquent promises. Beneath this plethora of rhetoric, the reality of Dominican life was plain and tragic, a monotonous and unlimited succession of miseries.

Dominican industry simply did not exist. Dominican agriculture was a myth. Nearly all of the raw material available for industrial use was steadily slipping out of the control of the Dominicans themselves, without causing surprise from anyone, without even an effort to avoid it, because everyone had the tragic belief that the Dominican people were incapable of exploiting their native resources.

Agricultural pursuits suffered from the inadequate methods used and from the age-old practice of growing only two or three different crops for export, the benefits of which went to distant owners, true feudal barons who did not even know who managed their land. Production for domestic use was still more unimportant, and was almost reduced to the spontaneous growth of native crops, in spite of the immense possibilities of the rich, fertile land.

## PRESIDENT TRUJILLO AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

“A nation essentially agricultural,” it was called, and the emptiness of the phrase was demonstrated in the thousands of uncultivated acres, in the poverty-stricken exploited — when not entirely ignored or forgotten — farm workers. “A nation essentially agricultural,” it may have been, but with a production so tiny, so miserable, that it seemed the land was developed only to contradict the boastfulness of that phrase.

“Immense industrial possibilities” was another phrase with a pleasant sound of hopes that never became realities, of idyllic aspirations without practical significance. Optimistic exaggerations obscured the sad facts of an anaemic national industry, hardly out of its swaddling clothes, made even weaker by the impossibility of competing in any unsympathetic market—an industry without capacity or vision, neither encouraged nor appreciated.

It was sixty-four years after independence was declared that the Secretariat of State of Agriculture was first created, in 1908. Even with this impetus, little was done of a practical nature. A combination of ineptitude, incapacity, self-seeking, preeminence of politics and contempt for agriculture made any possible official action in the field of no consequence whatever.

In the last administration before that of President Trujillo, official agricultural activities were like everything else of that time, the wasting of millions. Repeated loans were obtained, and consumed in large part by expenses for an elaborate and unnecessary organization. A vast quantity of machinery was set in motion without adequate supervision or centralized authority. As one looks back on the period, it seems to consist of a few grandiose begin-

nings, two or three abortive efforts to accomplish something, and some ruinous experiments made at the wrong time and place.

The cost to the nation for the Secretariat of State of Agriculture for the period of 1924-29 was \$1,195,247; this sum, however, does not include millions more in special appropriations by which the budget of the department was augmented. An interesting comparison is the departmental cost in the Trujillo administration for an equal length of time, 1929-34. This amounted to \$593,333, approximately half of the former expenditure, although it includes the 1930 expenditures of the Vasquez administration. President Trujillo's administration has in addition made further expenditures in the case of special work to be described later.

President Trujillo came into office gifted with the personality which gives deep-rooted reality to all his words. In this lies the secret of his success. When he said, addressing farmers, "My best friends are the workers," it was easy to believe. His inspiring example had stimulated all Dominican workers, dignified by this friendship. No other man could have done so much for Dominican agriculture, because no one else has dedicated himself to it with such clear vision, such faith and such enthusiasm.

In the last months of the Vasquez administration, the resources of the department had been entirely dissipated; even the outward glitter of the department had disappeared, and it stood revealed as an inactive, useless section of the Government. During the months of the Provisional Government (March-August, 1930) the condition was even worse. And President Trujillo entered

## PRESIDENT TRUJILLO AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

office to find this important branch of the government completely chaotic and demoralized.

Immediately the agricultural colonies of the Government were reorganized. This project, which had failed in the past because of its impractical functioning, was revised, and became a great success. Today the nine Government agricultural colonies answer completely to their original plan. More than six thousand colonists assure their success; besides increasing the nation's agricultural production, the colonies have successfully served as experiments in cooperative associations which have proved to be of great benefit.

In addition to these nine colonies which function under the direct control of the Secretary of State in this field, there are operated several military agricultural colonies under the control of the commander of the national army. These are colonies in which convicts work, and serve the double purpose of providing agricultural production and serving as excellent rehabilitation schools. Thus they perform an incalculable social service to the nation.

In September, 1932, a law went into effect, at the instance of President Trujillo, authorizing the executive power to deed any territory owned by the Government and susceptible to cultivation, to needy Dominicans.

In the first three articles of this law this is said:

“Any land, the property of the Dominican State, which is susceptible to cultivation, may be ceded by the Executive Power on application, to needy Dominicans who are competent to perform farm labor, in accordance with the requirements and conditions herein set forth. The cession shall be made under the obligation of the appli-

cant to pay the State in ten successive annual payments, beginning the second year after taking possession of the land, a sum stipulated as the price of the land in the contract, which must be signed by the applicant to obtain the cession. The Executive Power is authorized by this law to supply to the grantee, when he esteems it wise, on a returnable basis, necessary financial aid for the costs of adequate settlement on the land and proper cultivation of it, including a house in which to live, seeds, cattle, tools and equipment, and necessary moneys which the Executive Power may consider necessary during the first months of occupancy.”

This remarkable law, which has solved the problem of those in farm districts who lacked land, had as its sole genesis the desire for national progress on the part of President Trujillo. It has ended, without red tape or difficulty, a problem that in other nations has meant ages of suffering to the poorer classes, and it has placed the Dominican Republic many decades in advance of other nations in the solving of farm problems.

This same law has now been amplified by the promulgation of the law of colonization now in force, in whose second clause provision is made by which it is obligatory for lands privately owned, but uncultivated, to be colonized; this clause definitely discourages the ownership of vast stretches of unused land.

President Trujillo, during his entire administration, has personally donated thousands of dollars in implements and live stock to the farmers of the nation, and it can be safely said that there is no corner of the country in which some farm worker is not today doing his work with implements given him by President Trujillo, nor is

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there a pasture nor corral without some pure-blooded animal given by President Trujillo to assure the bettering of the quality of live stock.

In addition to this, a new law recently promulgated provides that in each community of the Republic there shall be established an Agricultural Protective Council, and that these councils shall be charged with the direction and stimulation of all agricultural work in their districts, to carry on active propaganda for the intensification of agricultural pursuits, to aid in the solution of any problems arising regarding the use of land, such as the control and distribution of water for irrigation, to give friendly cooperation in settling difficulties among farmers, and to turn over to the authorities those who break the agricultural and vagrancy laws.

This law is now being carried out with brilliant success in the province of Azua, where up to this time more than 8,000 Dominican farm workers formerly without land have been aided by the Agricultural Protective Councils to secure privately owned tracts formerly uncultivated.

Numerous laws and regulations dealing with the gathering and preparations of farm products assure the success of the crops, and establish the high quality of Dominican products, in all markets. Numerous instructors in agriculture, graduated from the National School of Agriculture, help with advice and direct assistance, and a body of inspectors of farm products supervises the quality of fruits and vegetables grown.

The teaching of agriculture has been made obligatory in all the rural primary schools of the nation, and the



## AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

teachers themselves receive regular instruction from the Secretariat of State of Agriculture, and are assisted in their work by the agricultural instructors.

The Secretariat conducts a correspondence course in agriculture, entirely without charge. At the present time more than two thousand students are enrolled in this course. Another course in industrial methods is being initiated.

The National School of Agriculture has been reorganized on a practical basis by President Trujillo, and turns out each year a group of graduates, all of them sons of farmers, and entirely competent in agricultural methods; they are given immediate opportunity of dedicating themselves at once to agricultural activities.

A body of selected technicians at the Secretariat is always ready to solve problems, and to go anywhere in the nation where their services may be required.

It is not necessary to give here detailed figures of agricultural production. A comprehensive idea of the results obtained from President Trujillo's farm program can be secured from the fact that in the four years up to 1936 more land was put under cultivation than in any 15-year period previously.

The present prosperity of the Dominican farmer—a prosperity created by hard work, complete peace and order, the impossibility of starvation, and sure markets—has caused a great increase in national production which has counter-balanced the fall in prices due to the world-wide devaluation of farm products. This increased production has reduced considerably the necessity for imports, an important factor in the national economy; in

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the period of 1930-33 alone there was a reduction of ten million dollars in imports, due to domestic production.

The agricultural record of the Dominican Republic since 1930 has been an outstanding achievement. It can be seen that the entire program of rehabilitation, reconstruction and progress has been built around the concept of the Dominican Republic as an agricultural nation—and every step, from the establishment of peace and order to the building of bridges, has been with the direct purpose of benefiting agricultural development. This concept, backed by a program that has proven immensely successful, is the greatest contribution of President Trujillo to his country, and is the mark of his greatness as the leader of a nation.

An illuminating report, which follows, was submitted in 1935 by the Secretary of State in this field.

Almost at the moment that Generalísimo Rafael L. Trujillo, President of the Dominican Republic, initiated his work of administrative reorganization and commenced his labors for the complete economic readjustment of the nation, the hurricane of September 3, 1930, unprecedented in the history of the country, decimated the population of Trujillo City and destroyed urban and rural property valued at 20 million dollars.

The Dominican nation's power of resistance was put to a stern test, but the government and the people multiplied their efforts and faced their adversity with firm resolution and without dismay, winning the sympathy and admiration of all who realize the greatness of the moral and physical blow wrought by the disaster.

## AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

The Dominican nation responded to the plea of the President to put its shoulders to the wheel, and the Department of State, of Labor, Agriculture and Industry and Commerce under President Trujillo devoted itself to restoring in the shortest time, in every sector of industry, commerce and agriculture a state of well being and progress.

The program of action was reduced to maintaining the best elements of the existing state, and making improvements in national production insofar as national resources would permit.

At the end of 1931 this program of action had been successfully completed, and the growth and manufacture of products that could be produced and consumed advantageously were being increased and intensified, and aid was being given in methods of cultivation of crops and in the preparation of products for domestic and foreign sale.

Notwithstanding the scarcity of money throughout the country during the entire year of 1930, we were not dismayed in the task of increasing the small agricultural credit, and through the personal initiative of President Trujillo, the National Treasury aided the Chamber of Commerce of Santiago de los Caballeros to distribute among small tobacco growers \$20,000 in the form of loans; and through the aid of this Department several communities contributed from their emergency funds in aiding the residents of Villa Vasquez to purchase machinery for handling rice from the cooperatives of Hato Mayor, Pedro Sanchez and Higüey.

Roads were improved greatly, and the opening of new

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ones to facilitate transportation in the interior was begun. A landing field was constructed in the Pedernales colony, and the construction of others in the agricultural colonies of the north was ordered to make more convenient visits of inspection. The connection of various colonies through telephone lines was begun, the colonies themselves contributing work, telegraph poles and other necessary materials.

New laws and decrees were promulgated regarding plant control for the protection of various farms, with restrictions against the importation of plants and seeds from lands where plant infection existed.

In accordance with the instructions of the President, studies were begun leading to the making of commercial treaties with countries with which it was necessary to arrange for the sale of our exportable products, avoiding the risks of the tariff war which prevails among the great buying nations.

The National School of Agriculture and the Experimental Agricultural Station, originally founded in the community at the head of Espaillat Province, were re-established, both costly products which had given magnificent results the first year of their establishment and which had been entirely abandoned during the economic chaos of the preceding administration. Under a plan approved by President Trujillo, the Department gave special attention to conserving the buildings and all material still in existence, the laboratory, library, furniture, field instruments, etc., and both projects were placed under the administration of the Chamber of Commerce of Espaillat Province, reopening the School with a con-

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crete program of practical education for overseers, managers and superintendents of ranches and farms.

The creation of farm-school gardens in various parts of the nation was begun.

Cooperative efforts for the production and sale of agricultural products, which have shown such excellent results in most countries in which they have become established, were initiated in our country with excellent promise, and the Rice Cooperative of Villa Vasquez, the Mao Cooperative, and agricultural cooperatives for production and sale in Hato Mayor, Higüey, and the agricultural colony of Pedro Sanchez, began functioning.

There are nine State Colonies: Pedernales, in the extreme south of the Dominican-Haitian frontier, Capotillo, Hitolito Billini, Mariano Cestero y Trinitaria, located on the northern frontier line in the Restauracion region, Bonao Arriba, located in the Lavega Province, Jamao, located in Espaillat Province, Villa Vasquez, located in Monte Cristy Province, Pedro Sanchez, located in the Seybo Province. The first five form the beginning of a system of frontier colonization adopted by the government for the Dominicanization of the territory adjoining the Haitian frontier. Though the economic situation has not permitted attention to all the necessities of these colonies, production has advanced and their general condition is excellent.

One of the aspects of the work of this department to which we have devoted great attention and enthusiasm is that represented by large and small national industries. The creation and development of these industries have been favored in every possible way to obtain the

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practical results of being able to reduce imports, because such domestic industries are a fountain of great wealth.

The interesting development can be noted of the national furniture industry during the year 1931, for which certain protective measures were taken to aid this useful field of national wealth.

In Puerto Plata and in Trujillo City the meat industry was initiated by two firms, Brugal and Company, and the firm of Inchaustegui.

The milk products industry (butter and cheese) was also begun, and has constantly developed to an extent that last year laws protecting this industry were considered advisable by President Trujillo.

The manufacture of hats and shoes has also increased steadily.

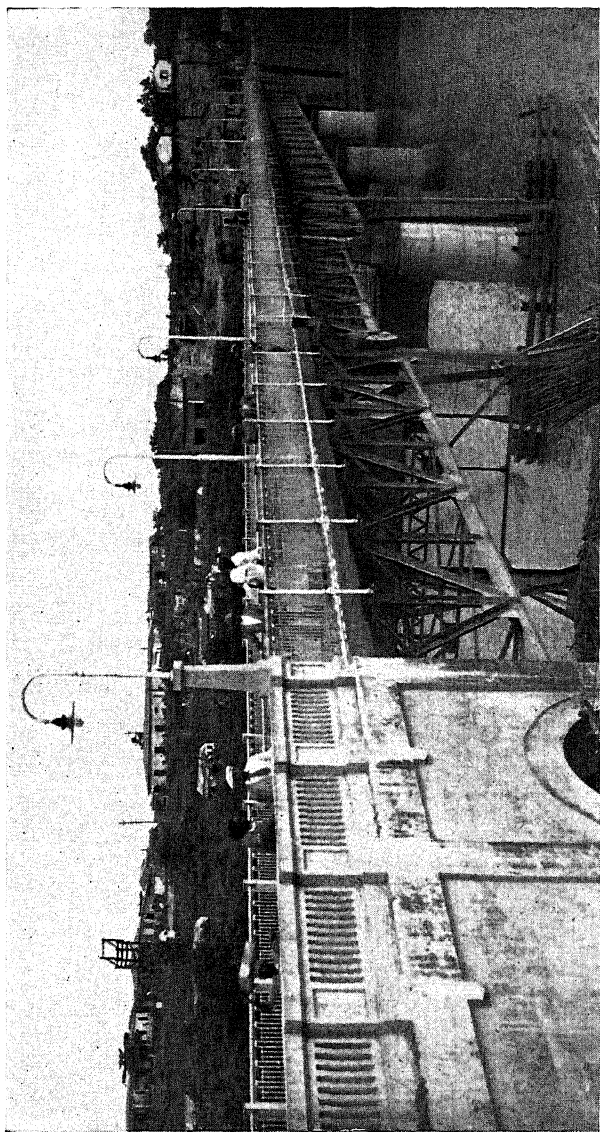
An intense propaganda encouraging the export of vegetables was undertaken.

From the first of the year efforts began for the formation of a commercial and industrial statistical service. This culminated in the year 1932 with the establishment of a Special Statistics Service operated under the Department.

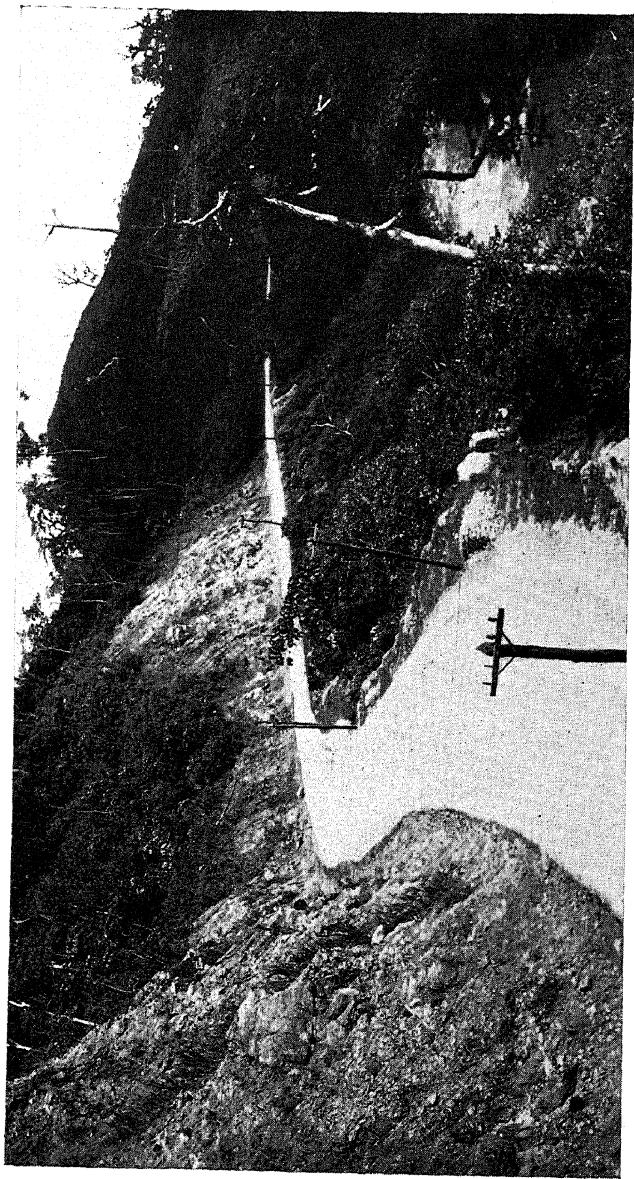
Production of rice during 1931 in the republic was 352,153 quintals as against 150,000 quintals produced in 1930.

Campaigns for the cultivation of cacao, tobacco, coffee, corn, beans and bananas were undertaken.

The work of veterinary service under the control



The Ozama Bridge, one of the connecting links between Trujillo City and San Pedro de Macoris. The former bridge was demolished by the hurricane of September 3, 1936, and this new one was erected under the energetic, constructive program of President Trujillo as a part of the reconstruction of the entire nation.



The Dominican Republic is rich in varied scenery. Splendid roads, such as the Duarte Highway, shown here, have now made every part of the nation accessible, under the program of President Trujillo. These arteries of communication have put new life into the country.



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of the Department was carried on under six headings: Veterinary service, zoological service, veterinary police, farm hygiene, collaboration with other departments, and publicity, propaganda and information service.

The principal campaigns carried on intensively in the official magazine, "The Review of Agriculture and Commerce," were as follows: Campaign for increased growth of rice; campaign for better care of cacao and cafe, which resulted in the passage of a law regulating the preparation of such products for export; campaign for agricultural socialization; campaign for increased live stock; campaign against malaria, and campaign for the protection of agricultural colonies.

The Department of Meteorological Service, under this Department, carried on continuous work, rendering valuable day and night service during periods of cyclones in issuing information throughout the republic regarding atmospheric disturbances.

In spite of the average conditions of the time—devaluation and atmospheric conditions—the general agricultural situation during the year 1932 was frankly reassuring, because the increase in production compensated in great part for the contrary indication. Throughout the year the abundance of fruits and vegetables assured the Dominican people of plenty of food at low prices in spite of the world prices. The intensification of diverse crops permitted a continuation of our exports with a consequent flow of money to the country, and to reduce still further our imports of necessities now being produced on a large scale on our own soil.

## PRESIDENT TRUJILLO AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

During the first three months of 1932 an intense drought caused considerable harm to agriculture. The chief crop to suffer was tobacco, in the Valverde region alone the loss being more than five million.

The second quarter began with abundant rains, which made it possible to intensify cultivation. The same pleasing conditions would have been maintained in the third quarter had it not been for the fatal consequences of a cyclone on September 27th causing serious losses in the most highly cultivated regions in the south and east. A three-month drought at the beginning of the year and a cyclone which damaged a considerable area toward the end of the year were contrary factors more than sufficient to upset the least optimistic calculations. In spite of this national agricultural production maintained a level which passed all previous years in some aspects and indicated what might have been done had it not been for these adverse forces of nature.

The initial idea of the program of colonization in the republic, following the plan of favoring foreign immigration and stimulating it by the offer of government aid in the form of gifts of land, distribution of farm implements, seeds, homes constructed by the government and even money was discarded because it seemed contrary to our best interests and unproductive in a great many cases.

In place of this a prudent policy was adopted favoring the establishment of foreign colonies on government land under the control of this department, but discarding the idea of mass immigration or of immigra-

tion of large groups and favoring instead the individual entry of farmers previously recommended by Dominican Consuls in the countries of their origin. Moreover, it is an elemental duty, before turning to foreign immigration, to give preference to native workers. The year 1932, therefore, was one of complete reorganization of all our agricultural colonies, whose activities were thereby definitely stimulated.

The effective application of the plan of rationalization of rudimentary education, with the obligation of each rural school to maintain a plot of land under cultivation, dedicating a part of its work to its cultivation and to the practical teaching of the most modern agricultural methods, was one of the practical accomplishments of the government of President Trujillo. Four hundred such school farms were put into production during the year 1932, and thirty thousand Dominican children and youths contributed to their cultivation, thus acquiring practical knowledge for making them efficient and capable farmers.

During the year 1932 lessons in agriculture by correspondence were given free to twenty-seven Inspectors of Public Instruction, four hundred teachers in rudimentary schools, eight hundred independent students, and one hundred proprietors of private farms.

The reorganization of our system of irrigation was begun with great success in 1932 with the creation under this department of a National Irrigation Service, with complete control of this activity.

In 1932 the following industries functioned in the Dominican Republic: 1 oil plant, 42 rice husking plants,

## PRESIDENT TRUJILLO AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

14 saw mills, 15 sugar centrals, 5 bay rum factories, 10 coffee husking plants, 6 coffee torrefacciones, 19 shirt factories, 41 cigar factories, 5 cigarette factories, 64 chocolate factories, 3 alcohol distilleries, 3 candy factories, 2 inlaid work factories, 1 match factory, 3 corn mills, 1 wheat mill, 26 ice factories, 40 typographical plants, 12 soap factories, 6 tile mills, 20 liquor factories, 3 lithographing plants, 5 butter plants, 4 factories for pharmaceutical products, 2 mosaic factories, 29 furniture factories, 4 cheese plants, 178 bakeries, 4 food products factories, 2 perfume factories, 4 wood factories, 1 clothing factory, 3 underwear factories, 4 hat factories, 17 crockery factories, 20 tanneries, 9 candle factories, 10 shoe factories.

In enumerating these industries figures are given only for establishments of real importance using specialized machinery and equipment.

The quantity of sugar exported during 1932 was 441,097 metric tons, which was an increase of 121,068 metric tons over 1931.

Beginning late in 1931 the government contracted for the services of Mr. Jose Campagne, expert in the making of cheese, so that he might educate cattle ranchers of the nation in the making of different types of durable cheese, as a means of helping the Dominican rancher to use effectively large quantities of milk which otherwise would be wasted. This service, initiated by President Trujillo, rendered great benefits. More than sixty cattle ranches throughout the provinces of Monte Cristy, Santiago, Moca and La Vega were visited by the expert, and more than 200 people in these ranches

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and in homes benefitted by his practical instruction. Cheese produced in 1932 amounted to 249,170 kilos.

Mrs. Teresa D. de Campagna during this same period gave private instruction in homes in practical methods of preserving meat, which was considered of great value, as nearly all the preserved meat consumed in our country is imported.

With a budget of \$88,902, which was increased by a transfer of funds to \$90,222.15, and later augmented through the creation of a capitalized irrigation service, the following activities were carried on: Department of Commerce, Industry and Statistics; Agricultural Office; Office of Inspection, Colonization and Cooperatives; National Irrigation Service Office, Publications Service, "Review of Agriculture;" Agricultural Teaching, with correspondence courses in agriculture and a campaign for school farms; Veterinary and Cattle Service; Meteorological Office; Plant Hygiene; Fruit and Vegetable Inspection; Entomological, Forest and River Service, and distribution of seeds and farm implements.

The work of this department was conducted during 1933 with a budget of \$103,577, and increased its scope constantly, at the same time continuing its previous labors.

One outstanding accomplishment which had immediate results was the participation of the department in the Civic Reviews celebrated in all parts of the country with which the inhabitants gave spontaneous proof of their loyalty to President Trujillo. During these reviews, consisting of agricultural and industrial ex-

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hibits, the department distributed among the poor farmers thousands of farm implements, cultivators, plows, picks, shovels, machetes, spades, hoes, large quantities of seeds and elaborate literature about agriculture. This distribution, augmented with prizes to the best exhibitors of draught animals, pure bred live stock, cows, goats, hogs and poultry, is the best example in the Dominican Republic of the type of government of President Trujillo, which goes into the country without being asked, laden with gifts which have been the most efficient means of bettering its economy, and does these things with the greatest generosity, without distinguishing among classes and without partiality.

At the beginning of 1933 it was announced with great satisfaction that 1932 had been the year in which the Dominican people had more productively dedicated themselves to cultivating the ground than ever before. But 1933 surpassed 1932; agricultural production increased, prices for articles of daily consumption decreased, and there was an increase in agricultural exports.

Commercial operations throughout the country during 1933 steadily increased in comparison with 1932. This increase was even more pronounced in the latter half of the year influenced by an increase in the prices secured for the majority of exports.

Total exports for 1933 reached the figure of \$9,-500,966. In coffee, cocoa, tobacco, corn, molasses, candles, honey and other products, sales to foreign countries were more than twenty-eight million kilos with a value of more than \$1,100,000 more than the sale of the same product in the year of 1932.

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The year 1934 can be considered exceptional in the field of national agriculture. In no previous time had so many beneficial measures been taken as during this period.

Among these measures was the excellent agricultural colonization law which made it possible to dedicate to agriculture large territories never before cultivated. Through the provisions of this law many farmers have obtained land enabling them to sustain their families, and as a consequence national production received a stimulus with a corresponding betterment of conditions throughout the country. In accordance with this law there were 119 requisitions of properties of more than 1,500 tareas each.

Through the efforts of President Trujillo an active agricultural campaign in the Southern part of the nation was undertaken. The splendid results of this campaign can be realized from the fact that 280,925 tareas of lands previously uncultivated were distributed to 9,323 indigent farmers.

In tune with the constant improvement which had begun with higher prices for exported products in 1933, commercial activity in the republic during 1934 was much greater. Commercial operations multiplied, producing a condition visibly better. Exports increased from \$9,625,473 in 1933 to \$12,955,763 in 1934, a jump of more than three million dollars.

Industrial progress has been also very rapid, so much so that at the end of 1934 there were 1,422 industrial establishments with a declared capital of \$62,144,792.32.

## PRESIDENT TRUJILLO AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The work of agricultural colonization followed its expected course of growth and betterment. On December 31, 1934, the nine agricultural colonies established by the government contained 8,922 inhabitants living in 1,695 houses. There were eleven official schools with 1,082 students. Production in the colonies during the year was: 4,239 quintals of coffee; 31,163 quintals of rice; 1,500 quintals of peanuts; 800 quintals of potatoes; 3,000 quintals of pan sugar, besides production of minor crops and large live stock production.

The Irrigation Service widened and deepened all irrigation canals and ditches. Many new ones were planned and completed.

One new step in the improvement of agriculture was the graduation in 1934 of twenty young men from the National School of Agriculture as Masters of Cultivation and Superintendents of Ranches.

Breeding of live stock was notably improved over previous years. Measures taken by the Veterinary Section were of considerable value in this regard.

The Departmental budget for the year was \$132,-438.08. Work was conducted on the same lines as in previous years, and in addition the Department by Law No. 668, passed April 19, 1934, took charge of Trademarks, Patents, and Mineral Exploration.

Coinciding with the patriotic festivities in Trujillo City celebrating the Dominican independence day, March 30, 1844, a great Agricultural, Industrial and Pecuaría Exposition was held in the city of Santiago de los Caballeros with great enthusiasm.



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This brilliant celebration was a new and eloquent demonstration of the power and wealth of the industrial and agricultural activity of the nation, and a formidable objective proof of the agricultural progress and modern methods introduced by the government, as well as a new and significant manifestation of the affection and gratitude of the people for President Trujillo, to whom farm workers of the Dominican Republic as well as all other citizens are indebted for the powerful stimulus and achievements which have placed the nation in such an enviable position.

Industry has not been neglected in the concentrated effort to aid agriculture, for an adequate industrialization is a vital necessity for every nation. In the field of manufacturing and of commerce there has been development equal in quality to the progress of agriculture. Referring to the creation of national industries under the magnificent direction of President Trujillo, the Chief of the Department of Commerce, Industry and Statistics had this to say, in his annual report for the year 1933:

“The development which has taken place day by day in our national industry is truly notable. Only a few years ago there existed in the nation only three or four industries of importance, whose activities were limited to the production of goods for domestic use.

“Today these basic industries have expanded, and have bettered the quality of their products, so that the Republic needs no longer to look to other countries for similar products. Besides this, a large number of small industries manufacturing merchandise of almost every descrip-

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tion have been born; they produce material for domestic consumption which has been one of the important factors in contributing to the success with which the Republic has faced the economic crisis confronting the entire world.

“The world crisis has contributed much to the development of Dominican industries, because the small capitalist and business man, finding almost insuperable difficulties in outside markets today, has been brought to realize that in no part of the world are his interests safer, nor can greater benefits be obtained, than in the Dominican Republic, in industries producing goods for which there is a definite demand and an easy market.

“Another factor of significance in the development of our national industry has been the guarantees and protection offered by President Trujillo to industries, and the assurance of orderly and peaceful conditions in a nation dedicated to unity and work for mutual prosperity.”

At the beginning of 1936 the Department of Commerce, Industry and Statistics had on record the names of 1,234 industrial establishments, representing a total investment of more than \$62,000,000.

Thus, under the leadership of President Trujillo a sane development has occurred, with tremendous promise for the future, both in agriculture and industry, and as a result of this, a definite raising of the hopes of the Dominican people for greater prosperity and happiness.

The phrase, “a nation essentially agricultural,” has assumed a new meaning. Few nations are as fortunate as the Dominican Republic in the fertility of soil, the quantity of available land in relation to population, the

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natural resources, that assure prosperity to the Dominican Republic under a policy of understanding and of work. President Trujillo, with his clear vision, has based his entire program of reconstruction, through work, on a comprehension of the factors that make for happiness, prosperity and a full life for the people of the nation.



# Chapter XII

## Education



## Chapter XII

### EDUCATION

PUBLIC instruction in the Dominican Republic conforms with modern pedagogical developments, showing constant progress from the first impulses given to it by the great educational reformer, Don Eugenio Maria de Hostos; but the efficacy of this important field of government activity has become far greater since Generalissimo Rafael L. Trujillo became president of the Dominican Republic, for his leadership has given Dominican schools a power of adaptation to the needs of the nation itself as an individual entity.

The great popular leader has successfully made education of more practical significance for their future lives as useful citizens. To give in a rapid survey of the Dominican school system a clear idea of educational methods in this great country, there is listed here a resume of the brilliant achievements which President Trujillo has offered in public education in five years of leadership.

A plan of study for rural schools, based on agriculture, to replace the inadequate course of study formerly used. This new plan has encouraged the growth of student gardens, of which there are more than a thousand in the country and has been successful in preventing the exodus of country boys to the cities. In addition a correspondence course in agriculture has been established, under the direction of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce.





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A construction of a thousand rural school buildings with their necessary equipment for practical training.

A Dominican edition of twenty thousand copies of "A Primer of Reading and Writing," by Eladio Homs, specially adapted to rural children, a gift of President Trujillo.

A Civic Primer for the Dominican Nation, written by President Trujillo and adopted as an official text in the schools.

Holding of the first Exposition of Popular Arts and Industries, with more than three thousand exhibits, in order to make known the great variety of activities in the Dominican Republic, and to find among them examples and models for use in manual training in the schools.

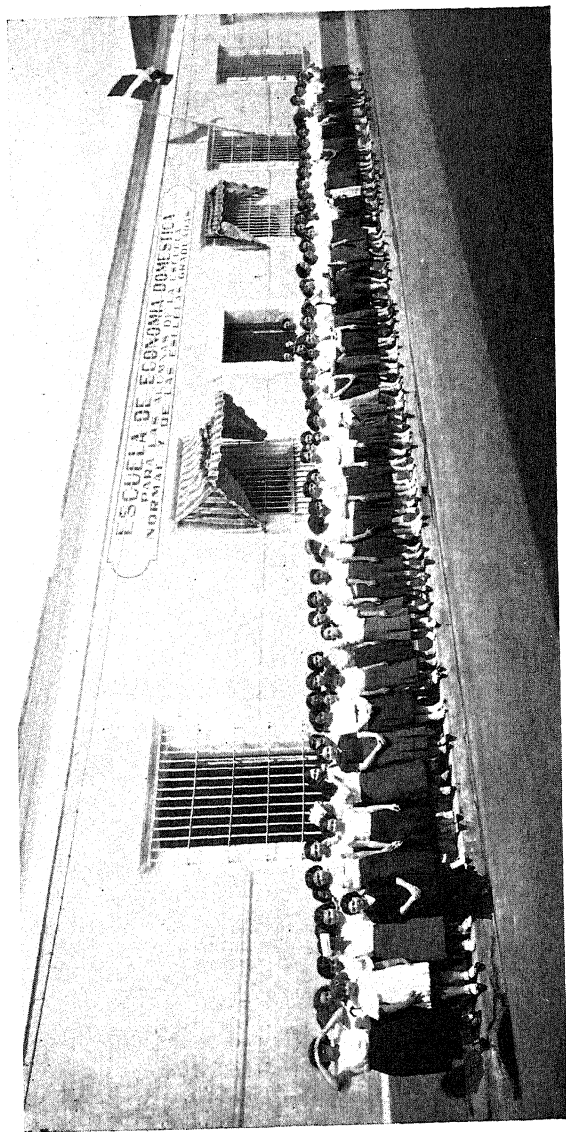
Organization of the Dominican Academy of History to promote investigation and study of Dominican history, and to classify data and historical documents.

Creation of the School of Arts and Crafts at Trujillo City.

Creation of the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters in the National University, and a project to establish in the university a school of agronomy, a veterinary school, and a school of public wealth.

Creation of a Commission to Conserve National Monuments, improvement of the National Museums, and attention and care to historical ruins and relics.

Reestablishment of the Dominican Athenaeum, and permanent official aid to cultural institutions of the nation, which has been a signal stimulus to the development of arts and letters.



A view of one of the latest schools of domestic science in Trujillo City. The new educational system in the Dominican Republic is one of President Trujillo's greatest accomplishments, with new schools giving practical training in activity throughout the nation.



President Trujillo has not neglected the appeal of beauty as an inspiration to contentment and to hard work. Here is Colon Park in Trujillo City, reconstructed by the President, where twice weekly noted bands give public concerts while thousands of carefree citizens stroll among the trees.

## EDUCATION

Official protection to Creole books and especially to didactic works.

Organization of the Society of School Friends, to promote more friendly relations between parents and teachers.

Creation of various Schools of Domestic Economy with a plan of studies adapted to the science, with modern equipment donated personally by President Trujillo.

Improvements in the Industrial Schools for Young Women in conformity with a new plan of studies, including a special course for servants.

Teaching of political economy, and compulsory savings in schools from profits on school gardens, and deposit of these savings in banks.

Teaching of singing and music in all schools, with special teachers in each locality, and the formation of bands made up of students of both sexes.

Standardization of school uniforms in all official school gardens.

Frequent educational conferences throughout the country, held by educational authorities and officers.

Organization of twelve groups of boy scouts, equipped with uniforms.

Preparation of an agricultural school map.

Encouragement of sports, initiated by President Trujillo, and the adoption of military exercises in the schools.

Among the most substantial reforms introduced, one

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that stands out as extremely important is the plan of teaching in the rural schools of agriculture and cattle breeding, replacing the inadequate course that formerly existed. Through this new plan more than one thousand new school gardens have been established throughout the country, and the exodus of country boys to the city has been prevented in large measure.

To complete the study of these important subjects for boys in rural sections, so that they can grow into efficient farmers, a correspondence course has been established, conducted by the Department of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce. To stimulate the students, each class is given charge of plots of ground, which they care for and in which they cultivate fruits and vegetables; prizes are awarded to those who obtain the best examples and demonstrate the greatest interest in their work. These courses have awakened great enthusiasm among the students and also the interest of their parents and others who have recognized the importance of this new aspect of rural education.

Two schools of Manual Arts have been created. One of them has been functioning in Trujillo City since September, 1934; the other, at Santiago de los Caballeros since January, 1935. The plan of studies that these new-type schools follow includes the following divisions: modeling, cabinet-making, carpentry, electricity, bookbinding and leather-working.

A magnificent building of two sections for a new School of Arts and Crafts has been constructed, built by the Order of Silesien Fathers with the efficient aid of President Trujillo, who personally donated the land and \$30,000 as a contribution for the building.

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In July, 1932, a manual labor exposition was held in the schools of Trujillo City, at which were exhibited among other things, furniture inlaid with antique mahogany, musical instruments and needlework. Later, in November, the general superintendent of education organized an exposition of popular arts and industries, which had great success in demonstrating the activities of the country.

In accord with the high purpose of President Trujillo, shown in his notable consideration of the advisability of giving a practical emphasis to education, five schools of domestic science were created, one each in Trujillo City, Santiago de los Caballeros, San Pedro de Macoris, Samana and San Cristobal. The first of these schools was inaugurated with ceremonies that included an address prepared by President Trujillo and read by the then Secretary of State of the Presidency, now Vice President of the Republic, Dr. Jacinto B. Peynado.

Under the plan of studies in these schools, all girls in the third and fourth grade in the public schools, and normal school students, attend these schools on predetermined days to receive theoretical and practical training in domestic science. The curriculum includes complete training in social duties, the work of a housewife, sanitary measures, etc., in such a way that a student secures an efficient preparation for her future career.

Before the Presidency of Generalissimo Trujillo there were fourteen of these schools in the country, the majority of which were wanting in efficient organization and poor in results, for which reason President Trujillo reduced the number to two, one in Trujillo City and the other in Santiago. In making this reduction the two schools

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remaining were completely reorganized, and the National Council of Education, faithful to the high purposes of the nation's great leader, arranged a magnificent course of study which has worked out with great success.

Besides the regular student body in these schools, numbering 400 in Santo Domingo and 101 in Santiago, special courses for servants attended by 300 girls, are given one day a week. These girls receive adequate instruction for their future work, in conformity with an interesting course of study prepared by the General Superintendent of Education, and approved by the National Council of Education.

One of the great purposes of the illustrious leader of the nation which has been achieved in the Dominican Republic is the publication of works of Dominican authors and of foreigners residing in the country and interested in its intellectual development, particularly textbooks, with the result that there is now a national library of textbooks replacing in part foreign books which are little adapted to the conditions and characteristics of the nation.

There are now numerous such books published with the efficient aid of President Trujillo, the cost of some of which he has personally paid, such as "The Nation in Song," by the poet and teacher, R. Emilio Jimenez, which is a splendid work on choral singing in four volumes, with a collection of works of Dominican composers, and adopted officially as a textbook by the National Council of Education.

The wonderful spirit of President Trujillo has been further manifested by the publishing, at his own expense,



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of a Dominican edition of 20,000 copies of "A Primer of Reading and Writing," by the Catalanian educator, Eladio Homs, adapted to this country and published by the firm of Seix and Barral, of Barcelona. President Trujillo presented these books to 20,000 school boys in rural sections, and they were received with enthusiastic demonstrations of joy.

This is a collection of maxims written by President Trujillo, published in book form and dedicated to all Dominicans; the President circulated this book at his own expense among all school children. The contents form an ideal basis for training in citizenship.

In the last year a thousand new rural school buildings have been constructed, and these are part of an intense campaign against illiteracy. These buildings were constructed by the Dominican Party, of which President Trujillo is founder and director. They are constructed with native materials and with typical architecture.

Sport is an educational agent more efficient than the gymnastic methods followed in the schools, because it is a form of exercising the body through natural impulses and inherent necessities in the development and the conservation of health. Besides its hygienic importance, it has a social importance of great value.

In addition to this, the President has interested himself in providing necessary equipment for this activity, both in the principal cities of the country and in many small towns where children of both sexes are supervised by the army in this work, which gives grace and agility to the body, stability to the spirit, and quickness to the mind.

## PRESIDENT TRUJILLO AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Acceding to the petition of the Dominican Academy of History, whose creation also is the work of President Trujillo, the President requested that Congress convert the ancient Admiral's Mansion, the home of the son of Columbus, into a National Museum and home for the Dominican Academy of History. This was done, a satisfactory arrangement having been made to supply funds for this purpose.

The work of reconstruction of this ancient edifice is now under way, and with the purpose of making the new work harmonize with the colonial aspect of the building, several parterres have been constructed in the ground, adorned with trees and grass, thus beautifying the front of the building. Steps made of carved stone of the same type originally used in this beautiful edifice offer to the eyes of visitors an aspect worthy of the memories of the 16th century court which the building evokes.

The salutary influence of the daily practice of singing on both the mind and the body is well known. The teaching of singing and music has now spread to all the schools of the nation, under the care of special teachers in each locality, and numerous bands made up of students of both sexes have been organized. Much has been contributed to this interesting aspect of education by R. Emilio Jimenez, Secretary of State of Public Education and Fine Arts, author of various works, among them "The Nation In Song," a book of choral songs, made an official text for use in public schools.

With the purpose of tightening the bonds between the home and the school several societies of school friends have been established throughout the country for parents, teachers and others interested in the progress of educa-

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tion. These groups are doing a splendid work in aiding mutual understanding of domestic and school problems and through this means many difficulties have been ironed out.

An excellent program of periodical educational conferences in various problems of public instruction has been inaugurated. The department of education has sponsored these conferences, and the Secretary of State of Education and Fine Arts has spoken on diverse educational topics. These conferences have served as a great stimulus to teachers.

Aid to science and letters is an essential of good government, and recognizing this fact, President Trujillo sought and obtained from congress the establishment of a Faculty of Philosophy and Letters in the National University. He also has the intention of establishing a School of Agronomy, a Veterinary School, and a School of Public Wealth, connected with the university, in accordance with the important declarations which he has made in connection with his splendid educational program for the new period of government.

President Trujillo omits no steps in aiding cultural activity, for it is his natural inclination to favor all forms of mental effort. As soon as this became known throughout the nation there was a rebirth of literature. The President made as part of the law of public expenditures a regular appropriation of \$200.00 for the Dominican Athenaeum which was revived after many years of inactivity, and \$100.00 for the Lovers of Light, a literary club of Santiago de los Caballeros.

The new Dominican Athenaeum was inaugurated per-

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sonally by Generalísimo Trujillo, and in an address at these ceremonies he said that he wished to contribute to the popularization of good literature, that the fine arts might endure for the glory and honor of the Dominican people, whose virtues and heroism demand monuments, because the ceremonies, the achievements, the tradition and the natural beauties of the nation, with all their richness, are worthy of the creation of a new art.

Because of this attitude of generous aid to the fruits of the mind President Trujillo was given by the Athenaeum the title of Protecting Member of Merit in a solemn public ceremony, in the course of which he expressed his great satisfaction in stimulating with his words the intellectual progress of Dominican women, in connection with which he expressed lofty concepts.

## STATISTICS OF PUBLIC EDUCATION IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC UNDER PRESIDENT TRUJILLO

### EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

- 1 University
- 6 Normal Schools
- 6 Schools of Music
- 2 Schools of Drawing, Painting and Sculpture
- 2 Schools of Manual Arts
- 2 Industrial Schools for Young Women
- 5 Schools of Domestic Science
- 1 Institute for Destitute Children
- 36 Vocational Schools
- 179 Secondary Schools
- 87 City Primary Schools
- 541 Rural Primary Schools

## EDUCATION

Of these schools:

649 are Government schools

28 are semi-Government schools, and

190 are private schools.

### SCHOOL POPULATION

Total enrollment at the end of April, 1935.... 91,700

(While exact figures are not available, enrollment by the end of June, 1936, had passed the 100,000 mark.)

### SEX

Male ..... 47,030

Female ..... 44,670

### RACE

Whites ..... 25,020

Negroes ..... 14,652

Mestizos ..... 52,028

### NATIONALITY

#### Dominicans

Male ..... 47,700

Female ..... 43,472

#### Foreigners

Male ..... 364

Female ..... 364                      91,900

### AGE

#### Under 7 years

Male ..... 1,604

Female ..... 2,002                      3,606

#### From 7 to 14 years

Male ..... 38,432

Female ..... 37,897                      76,329

#### Over 14 years

Male ..... 6,958

Female ..... 4,771                      11,729



# Chapter XIII

## Public Finances





## Chapter XIII

### PUBLIC FINANCES

WHEN the administration presided over by President Trujillo came into power on August 16, 1930, not only did it have to face the disastrous consequences of the previous extravagant and inefficient administration—i. e., existing political instability, a bankrupt treasury with salaries and expenses greatly in arrears and consequent lack of confidence in business circles—but was also confronted with the fact that the properties acquired and the works executed in previous years, carried out in greater part by monies from foreign loans, were almost in complete decadence, and, without funds to face this urgent situation, the total loss of the large sums already invested was imminent. Furthermore, the time had arrived to begin amortization of the loans contracted.

Under the Convention of 1907 the Dominican Republic issued and sold a bond issue of \$20,000,000 due in 1958, bearing interest at 5 per cent and *providing for amortization at the rate of 1 per cent per year*. Interest and sinking fund requirements were secured by customs revenues collected by the receiver appointed by the United States. The bond contract provided that 50 per cent of the annual customs revenues over \$3,000,000 should also be used for amortization. This entire issue was liquidated by reason of increases in customs revenues by February, 1927—thirty years before the date of maturity.

## PRESIDENT TRUJILLO AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

During the period of the military government of the Dominican Republic by the United States (1916-22) there were two foreign bond issues.

In 1918, \$4,161,300 20-year 5 per cent bonds were issued *to be amortized at the rate of 5 per cent per year*, and by the application of 30 per cent of all customs revenues in excess of \$3,000,000 per year. This issue was completely retired by proceeds from the customs revenues in 1926, twelve years before the date of maturity.

In 1922 the issue of \$10,000,000 twenty year, 5½ per cent bonds was authorized of which \$6,700,000 was sold. *Amortization payments were deferred* and were not to become operative until 1930. Beginning as of 1930 amortization payments were to be made at the rate of \$841,666.66 per annum, together with 10 per cent of all customs revenues in excess of \$4,000,000. By March, 1926, the remainder of this issue amounting to \$3,300,000 was entirely sold.

In 1924 a Convention between the United States of America and the Dominican Republic superseding and supplementing the Convention of 1907 was agreed upon and was subsequently ratified by the United States on the 26th day of October, 1925. The Convention describes the three foregoing issues and recites that the terms of the contracts under which these bonds have been issued *have proven by experience unduly onerous to the Dominican Republic and have compelled it to devote a larger portion of the customs revenues to provide the interest and sinking fund charges pledged to the service of such bonds than is deemed advisable or necessary.*

The Convention further recites that:

## PUBLIC FINANCES

It is the desire of the Dominican Government and appears to be to the best interest of the Dominican Republic to issue bonds to a total amount of \$25,000,000 *in order to provide for the refunding on terms more advantageous to the Republic of its obligations* represented by the three issues above mentioned, etc.

The Dominican Government did not issue the \$25,000,000 contemplated, nor did it refund the previous issues. In 1926 and in 1928 it did, however, issue a total of \$10,000,000 5½ per cent bonds, maturing in 1940, for the purpose of internal improvements. Sinking fund and amortization requirements as to these bonds were also deferred to take effect on August 20, 1930. From and after that date the contract required amortization payments of \$1,010,000 annually, plus 10 per cent of all customs revenues over \$4,000,000.

It will be noted that it was one of the purposes of the 1924 Convention that the terms of future bond contracts should be *less onerous to the Dominican Republic*. In fact, the terms were made more onerous by reason of the fact that amortization was deferred until 1930, after which date the entire new indebtedness was to be paid off within a ten-year period; a rate of 10 per cent per annum as contrasted with 1 per cent and 5 per cent, respectively, under the contracts of 1908 and 1918, respectively.

Provisions for the collection and application of customs revenues to foreign bond service were provided in the 1920 Convention similar to those contained in the Convention of 1907. At the end of 1928 the bond account stood as follows:

## PRESIDENT TRUJILLO AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

1—Issue 1922-1942—First Series....	\$6,700,000
2—Issue 1922-1942—Second Series..	3,300,000
3—Issue 1926-1940—First Series....	5,000,000
4—Issue 1926-1940—Second Series..	5,000,000
<hr/>	
Total .....	\$20,000,000

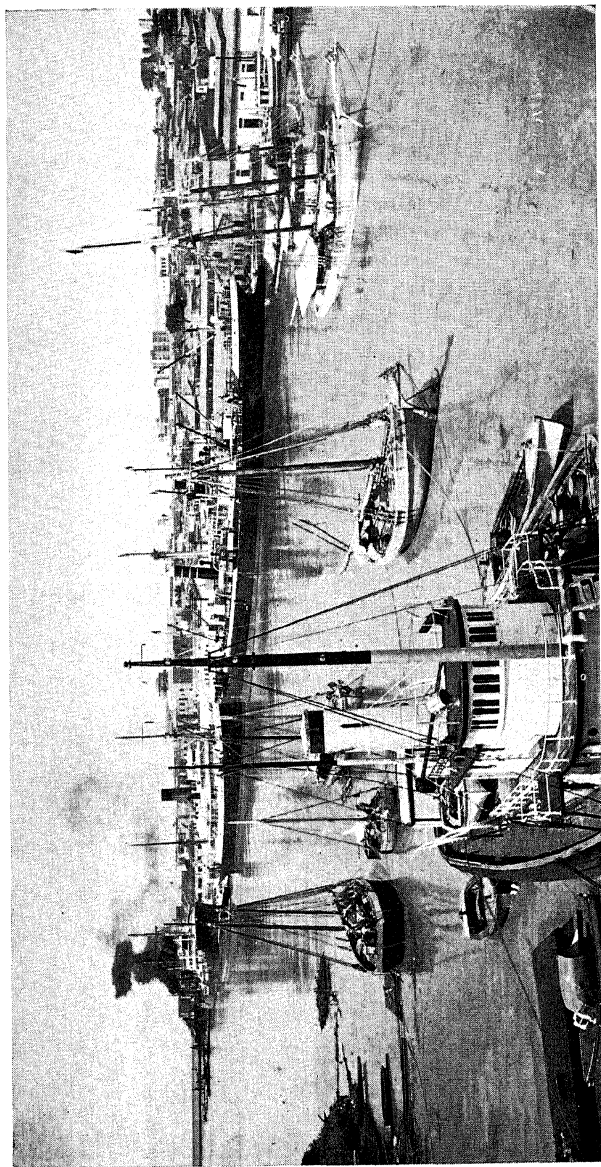
On January 1, 1934, the residue of the bond account stood as follows:

1—Issue 1922-1942—Both Series....	\$8,040,500
2—Issue 1926-1940—Both Series....	8,280,000
<hr/>	
Total .....	\$16,320,500

It will be observed that during the years of 1930 and 1931, by reason of the unduly onerous amortization requirement, the total foreign bond indebtedness of \$20,000,000 was reduced to \$16,593,500 by reason of a reduction of \$3,406,500. Considered in the light of the worldwide depression it is obvious that such radical increase of amortization requirements worked great hardship, particularly when accompanied with the drastic decline in government revenues hereinafter set forth.

The years immediately following the Convention of 1924 were characterized by marked increases in public revenues. The following table sets forth the receipts from customs and all other sources of revenue for the years 1925 to 1929 inclusive.

Year	Customs Receipts	All Other Revenues	Total
1925 .....	\$4,935,118	\$6,809,371	\$11,744,489
1926 .....	4,734,737	7,730,868	12,465,605



This scene shows the harbor at Trujillo City, with ocean liners and smaller craft discharging and taking on cargo. With the completion of the new port, the largest ships in the world will be able to dock in the harbor. Large new wharves and storehouses are being built to accommodate the increasing foreign traffic of the nation, an increase which has resulted from the remarkable administration of President Trujillo.



The principal gate to the ancient city of Santo Domingo, now Trujillo City. Many portions of the old wall surrounding the city still are standing.

## PUBLIC FINANCES

1927	.....	5,908,796	9,405,536	15,314,332
1928	.....	5,297,116	9,484,664	14,781,780
1929	.....	4,995,578	10,390,265	15,385,483

In addition to the foregoing income, the then administration of the Dominican Republic had revenues derived from the sale of foreign bonds to the extent of approximately \$13,000,000.

The net amount of revenue available from all sources (exclusive of foreign loans) including customs, for the administration of civil government *after payment of service on foreign loans* for the years 1925 to 1929, inclusive, were as follows:

1925	.....	\$ 5,886,374.52
1926	.....	7,252,080.67
1927	.....	12,402,657.65
1928	.....	10,563,618.16
1929	.....	10,808,816.76

Notwithstanding this ample income, and an increase of almost 50 per cent in 1929 revenues over 1925 revenues, the then administration of the Dominican Republic made no provision for creating reserves to meet the payment of amortization service on the foreign bond issues which had been deferred under the 1922 and 1926 bond contracts so as to begin and take effect in March and August, 1930.

In fact, by 1930 the previous administration of the Dominican Government had incurred additional internal debt amounting to nearly \$2,000,000 and in addition there-to left the succeeding administration confronted with \$20,000,000 in foreign debt obligations, an increase of \$5,000,000 over 1925.

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The report of the Financial Adviser and Special Emergency Agent, Mr. Wm. E. Dunn, dated February 20, 1933, contains the following accurate statement of conditions:

“During the peak years of prosperity public affairs were apparently administered on the theory that good times would last forever. Revenues which had been running around \$10,000,000 per annum reached a high level of more than \$15,000,000, and expenditures mounted in even greater proportion. Scientific management of public funds and efficient administrative methods were unknown. No provision was made for the greatly increased payments on the public debt beginning in 1930, when the heavy sinking fund payments of both the 1922 and 1926 external loans first became due. In short, the Dominican Republic was headed for difficulties even if conditions had remained normal.”

As a result of these conditions, in 1930 there occurred a peaceful, bloodless revolution which terminated the administration which had been in power from 1924 to 1930. Thereupon Estrella Ureña assumed the Presidency, pending the election which occurred the following May and resulted in the election of Rafael L. Trujillo, the Commander-in-Chief of the Army, who assumed office August 16, 1930.

The new administration was confronted with an empty treasury, with the country badly in debt, without current funds and in precarious financial straits.

The world-wide depression intensified the emergency. The large internal debt which had been bequeathed to the new administration constituted a direct charge upon the



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revenues of the government. These fiscal conditions had a direct effect upon trade and commerce and markedly increased the existing ravages of the financial depression.

Less than three weeks after President Trujillo took office, one of the worst and most destructive hurricanes in the known history of the Caribbean struck the capital. The Annual Report of the American National Red Cross for the year 1931 sets forth the facts as follows:

“On September 3 an intense hurricane struck Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, destroying or damaging every building in the city and causing over 2,000 deaths and 6,000 injuries. Outside the walled city the destruction was almost complete; inside, the buildings constructed in the old Spanish days were more fortunate. But even there at least 70 per cent had lost roofs and were more or less damaged.”

The following is an excerpt from the report made to the Chief of the Bureau of Insular Affairs of the War Department at Washington by the Receiver of the Dominican Customs for the year 1930, which describes the serious character and consequences of this catastrophe:

“Affecting as it did the fortunes of the country to such a marked extent and attracting world-wide newspaper publicity, it is to be recorded that the outstanding event of the year was the major catastrophe, a hurricane of unprecedented force which struck Santo Domingo City, the capital, oldest settlement of the white man in the Americas the afternoon of September 3, 1930. \* \* \*

“The city had the appearance of having been laid in ruins, with three-quarters of the houses destroyed; an

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estimate of the wind velocity was around 200 miles per hour. \* \* \*

“From the prostrated city, left without public lighting and its water supply cut off, went out urgent calls for aid and relief. \* \* \*

“The first relief parties, led and directed in person by President Trujillo, witnessed harrowing scenes difficult to describe—the dead and dying and maimed found amongst the debris of fallen walls. With the dead estimated subsequently at 2,500 and the wounded at several times that figure, relief workers had time only for the living and so, lest the horror of pestilence be added to the city’s pitiful burden of misfortune, any attempt at burying the dead was abandoned in favor of mass incineration.”

The unavoidable expense imposed upon government agencies to meet and relieve the distress occasioned thereby and to preserve order again increased the existing internal debt.

Coincident with these conditions, there confronted the new administration the disastrous effects of the world depression, which drastically reduced public revenues, available for the payment of the sinking fund requirements beginning that year.

In 1930 and 1931 effort was made by President Trujillo to refinance the foreign debt and commissions were sent to the United States for such purpose, but nothing could be done because of world-wide financial conditions. Upon the failure of such negotiations the Dominican Government requested the State Department of the United

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States to recommend a financial adviser to assist in working out this problem.

After refunding projects proposed had failed to materialize, the Republic was compelled to place the desperate character of this situation before the government of the United States and on October 20, 1931, advised the Secretary of State of the United States that it was imperatively necessary for the preservation of civil government that there should be diverted from the customs revenues to the support of the general fund for the purpose of civil administration a sum of at least \$125,000 per month, or a total of \$1,500,000 per year, and that in order to protect the "life of its people" and the existence of its own government, it was compelled to pass an emergency law suspending payments of sinking fund or amortization requirements under the foreign bond contracts until December 31, 1933.

The Emergency Law of 1931 was conceived to meet the requirements of the moment at a time when future conditions and necessities could not be foreseen accurately. It merely sufficed to hold together a precarious situation, and was not far-reaching enough to affect general basic conditions.

At the expiration of the Emergency Law in December, 1933, the Dominican Government was again confronted with a very difficult situation, realizing that it was not able to reassume complete amortization service on its external bonds.

It immediately took the necessary steps to enter into negotiations with the Foreign Bondholders' Protective Council, Inc., an organization created by the Roosevelt

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Administration in the early part of 1934, and composed of noteworthy American citizens for the general purpose of readjusting foreign bond issues floated in the United States. This has been the first entity of its kind to fully and efficiently accomplish the purposes for which it was created, and the Dominican Republic can be considered as the first Latin American country to effect a complete readjustment in the terms of its bonded indebtedness consistent with the broad equities and long-view interests of the bondholders, placing them in a distinctly advantageous position—so much so that the agreement entered into with the Foreign Bondholders' Protective Council, Inc., may be taken as a pattern to be advantageously followed by other countries in a similar position.

Notwithstanding the facilities offered the Republic by making available the monies which would otherwise have been sent out of the country to meet the original amortization requirements, the Dominican Government has judiciously considered, after weighing all prevailing conditions and circumstances, that it was essentially necessary to provisionally establish certain new taxes to carry out programs of permanent public works, which would not only pay gradually for themselves, but which would at the same time enhance the value of its physical assets and offset considerably the non-employment situation which is at present oppressing the world at large.

Drastic and energetic measures have been taken to impose these temporary taxes, and the Dominican Government, with a view to final rehabilitation, has submitted its people to the most crucial tests of sacrifice and self-denial. They have loyally responded to the common cause, and unlike other countries of incommensurate capacity and

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possibilities, is paying off religiously the new burdens imposed on them, having absolute confidence in the sagacity and far-reaching administrative ability of the Executive which will lead them to final and permanent economic deliverance.

The procedure adopted by the Dominican Republic is from all view points worthy of emulation, and places it in a prominent position in the concert of all progressive and civilized countries of the world.

The Dominican Government under the administration of President Trujillo exercised vigor and diligence in efforts to meet the serious financial emergency which confronted it. The bare recital of the various economies effected, and the reforms instituted and sustained, do not adequately reveal the extraordinary achievements of the administration.

A recapitulation of these reforms follows:

1. Maintenance of a balanced budget, and prompt payment of all current salaries and expenses.
2. Establishment of a scientific system of control over government expenditures.
3. Centralization of Government purchases in a reorganized Bureau of Supplies with resulting economies and benefit to the Dominican people as a whole.
4. Reorganization of Internal Revenue Department and development of a highly efficient Inspection service.
5. Rigid economies in all branches of the public administration.

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6. Gradual and consistent reduction of the internal debt.
7. Fulfillment of economical and efficient Public Works programs for vital physical rehabilitation and stimulation of the productive resources of the country.

The foregoing covers almost the entire field of Dominican fiscal administration and demonstrates the Government's good faith and earnest desire to readjust and maintain its fiscal equilibrium.

It can be seen that a really extraordinary record has been achieved by President Trujillo in the field of public finances. Amortization under the agreement is paid promptly, as is interest on the foreign debt—an almost unique achievement among nations of the world. As impressive as this is the annual balancing of the budget, the limitation of expenditures to income.

It is important to note that a large portion of public expenditures since 1930 have been devoted to improvements, public works and other projects which have definitely added to the physical assets of the nation. The consequence is that the increased valuation of real property, due to these improvements, and the increase in value of highways, bridges, buildings, port works in various cities, etc., have added to the assets of the nation an uncalculated amount which is far more than enough to offset the total indebtedness in bonds, more than enough to offset the original indebtedness of \$20,000,000 which President Trujillo has reduced by almost \$4,000,000 through amortization payments. Thus, the financial structure of the nation is far more solid than it has ever been before.

# Chapter XIV

## Judicial Procedure





## Chapter XIV

### JUDICIAL PROCEDURE

IN A NATION torn by internal strife, frequent changes of government and chaotic conditions generally, the state of judicial institutions always falls to a low point. The Dominican Republic is no exception to this rule. One of President Trujillo's problems, therefore, on taking office in 1930, was the re-establishment in public esteem of the judicial functions, and the raising of the standards of the institutions.

Understanding that the social order cannot exist without adequate functioning, President Trujillo from the first moments endeavored to select men for judicial posts who would be worthy of their important work—men with the high moral and intellectual standards required for such offices. In this he has been notably successful.

To give judicial procedure an opportunity to function in an atmosphere of freedom was of supreme importance, and in this the President has surrounded judicial institutions with guarantees and protection, affording them every liberty under the Constitution and related laws. Everyone in the nation now knows that the courts need to fear no outside influence in the performance of their duties, whatever the source of such influence may be.

The consequence has been that the courts, operating in this atmosphere of independence, have done splendid work in bettering the social order. Delinquents have been prosecuted, without class distinction, and civil cases have received an equal amount of attention.

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A great deal of legislation has been initiated and passed to care for the needs of the social order, and those of the several branches of the Judicial Administration. Among the laws relating to the social order are various ones to speed court processes, and to prevent undue delay in the prosecution of cases.

In order to build confidence among the people in the fairness of the present Government, President Trujillo sometime ago publicly invited anyone who feels himself the victim of injustice, or that his rights have been violated, to communicate directly with him with their complaints. This has had a very salutary effect, for on receipt of such complaints, an instant investigation is made, with a full report to the President of the facts in the case. The people have learned that the President is their friend, and that they can rely on him to receive justice—and that no special influence is necessary to receive immediate attention.

Another matter that has received personal attention from the President is the prison regimen. Previous administrations had neglected nearly all efforts to better conditions. The present administration, however, has made steady progress in improvements of various kinds. New model prisons have been constructed in Samana, Moca and San Pedro de Macoris; partial or complete reconstruction has taken place in the prisons of Azua, Barahona, Trujillo City, and the National Penitentiary at Nigua.

The Government is at the present time planning further improvements in prison regimen, such as an extension of the present system inaugurated by President Trujillo of

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furnishing work for convicts, and is also making plans for complete revision of the criminal code.

An interesting commentary on judicial procedure under the present administration, particularly in reference to the appellate courts, is contained in an address recently delivered by Judge Rafael Castro Rivera, part of which follows:

“The appellate courts are of relatively recent creation in the Dominican Republic. Our Constitution was amended in 1908 to provide a system of appeal which has brought incalculable benefits because of the better application and scientific interpretation of the law.

“The amendments to the Constitution made necessary the establishment of appellate courts. At first two were created, and later a third; the courts were located in the cities of La Vega, Santiago de los Caballeros, and Trujillo City.

“Until the advent of President Trujillo to the Presidency, not only the appellate court but all tribunals were faced with terrific obstacles in the performance of their duties. The entire judiciary had to contend with indifference on the part of other government officials, a contempt for judicial functions, political prejudices, and outright coercion. Today the situation has been completely altered. Magistrates are in complete liberty and security, and the atmosphere of the courts is one of freedom and justice.

“The judicial tribunals have carried on a full labor, having tried 24,782 cases in the period of 1930-1934, of which 2,879 were in the appellate courts, and 21,903 in courts of the first instance.”



# Chapter XV

Settlement of Boundary Deserves  
Nobel Prize



## Chapter XV

### SETTLEMENT OF BOUNDARY DESERVES NOBEL PRIZE

IN THE year 1874 the Dominican Republic and the Republic of Haiti, in order to make permanent their friendly relations, signed a treaty of peace, commerce and navigation, which also contained the first stipulations regarding boundaries. From the birth of the Dominican Republic the Haitians had maintained in their constitution that the ocean on all sides was the limit of their territory, thus simulating a right of dominion over the Dominican Republic which was not exercised.

By the treaty of 1874 the two nations obligated themselves to stipulate their boundaries. The treaty itself did not fix the dividing lines between the countries, but provided that such a line would be stipulated in a special treaty. In this way a new phase was given to Dominican and Haitian relations, and with it a field of discussion was opened regarding the proper boundary lines. It is true that the treaty of 1874 smoothed relations to a small extent, but these relations never became cordial and were always marked by lack of confidence and suspicion.

On several occasions the governments agreed to search for a definite formula for the solution of the dangerous frontier question. In 1891 they completed a protocol to submit the matter to the arbitration and decision of His Holiness, Pope Leo XIII. But even this brought no results, and the problem remained unsolved, with growing annoyance and lack of confidence between the two peoples.

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Nor did the mediation of the Government of the United States, solicited by the Haitian government, have any results.

Matters progressed in this way through years of discussion and frontier incidents, some of which endangered peace between the two countries, until in 1929, through the good will of the Dominican Government and the prudence of President Borno, of Haiti, a treaty was finally signed on January 21st.

To execute the conventions contained in this instrument a boundary commission was appointed, composed of two sections with three members each, one Dominican and one Haitian section.

Once the commission was installed it began its labors and in the midst of great difficulties was able to realize only a part of its work, leaving pending serious divergencies respecting essential points, which divided the opinion of the members of the commission, also dividing the two governments and arousing bad spirit among the people.

The efforts of the Dominican Chancellery were useless in obtaining further action.

It seemed as if the boundary dispute would never be settled, and consequently that important questions dividing the two governments and peoples would remain unsolved, making impractical the establishment of a frontier, particularly because the Dominican negotiators decided that until the entire boundary line was traced, the limits described in the 1929 treaty would not be considered as binding.

With matters in this state, President Trujillo decided



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to direct personally these delicate negotiations, and began by sending the Haitian government a commission of Dominican army officers with a personal message of friendship and salutations to President Vincent, who in response sent another similar commission to President Trujillo. President Trujillo named as minister to Haiti one of his best personal friends, who has many good friends in Haiti.

Thus initiated by President Trujillo and directed by him, the work of establishing friendship proceeded, and high figures in Dominican social life and that of Port au Prince exchanged visits, with the result that the lack of confidence and the suspicions of the past quickly disappeared. President Trujillo then arranged an interview with President Vincent on the northern frontier, and on October 18, 1933, in the Haitian city of Ouanaminthe and later in the Dominican city of Dajadon, the memorable conversation took place which formed the basis for a solid friendship and greater relationship of concord and solidarity between the two governments.

In this interview the two Presidents arranged to name a commission which would study the difficult pending questions, and decide them according to the spirit and letter of the treaty of 1929.

The commission was named, and its work began in January, 1934, but was unable to arrive at any satisfactory settlement. The meetings of the commissioners, however, had served to draw closer the two Chancelleries, and with the intention of crystallizing the work already done into a definite agreement on all the questions of dispute, President Trujillo arranged to visit President Vin-

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cent in Port au Prince, where they could make such an agreement through direct conversation between the two.

Accordingly, on November 2, 1934, President Trujillo entered Port au Prince, and this step not only established a complete understanding of the friendship between the two nations and the fact that their relations were now frankly cordial but also it cleared away all obstacles to a settlement of the boundary dispute.

President Trujillo spent six days in Port au Prince, two of which were dedicated to study and conversations between the two presidents regarding the frontier question, culminating in a settlement on five of the six points which were open; the sixth point, the most dangerous, was discussed, and the decision made to go into it further during the coming visit which President Vincent was to make to President Trujillo in Trujillo City.

February 26, 1935, President Vincent arrived at the capital of the Dominican Republic, and on the 28th, in a four-hour interview between the two Presidents, all points were completely settled, making it possible to execute the provisions of the treaty of January 29, 1929.

These acts, described without comment, evidence that the determination of President Trujillo and the good will of President Vincent, of Haiti, have succeeded in arriving at a practical understanding of the common interests of the two nations, peace between them and the tranquility of their people.

At the present time the boundary commission is carrying out its work with complete cordiality. Before the end of the year this work, one of President Trujillo's

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greatest patriotic achievements and the aspiration of all the citizens of all the Dominican Republic, will be completed.

The General Secretariat of the League of Nations communicated to all League members "the happy termination of a definite arrangement of the frontier question between the Dominican Republic and Haiti, thanks to the efforts of their excellencies, Presidents Trujillo Molina and Vincent," and the General Secretary of the League of Nations, in a speech given in the Council of the League on March 5, 1935, delivered a eulogy of the arrangement and characterized it as "a high example given the nations of the world in solving their differences." The Pan American Union, in a telegram of March 4th, addressed to the Secretary of State of Foreign Relations, expressed its congratulations; and by a resolution of April 3d, proposed by the Minister of Costa Rica, voted unanimously by a rising vote, after a brilliant address by Secretary of State Hull, President of the Directing Council, expressed its cordial felicitations to the sister republics of Haiti and the Dominican Republic, "with the hope that the clear example they have given will serve as an example whenever in the future similar situations occur among the nations forming the Pan American Union."

His Holiness Pope Pius XI, in a note sent by the Cardinal Secretary of State Pacelli to the Dominican Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at the Vatican, expressed his jubilation because an agreement so satisfactory had been reached, and one which corresponded to the most ardent desires of the Pope.

His Excellency Franklin D. Roosevelt, of the United States of America, expressed his congratulations, adding

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that the arrangement "constitutes a noteworthy example of statesmanship in the relations of our American Republics." Mr. Niceto Alcalá Zamora, President of the Republic of Spain, congratulated "the honoring and exemplary solution of the boundary question."

His Excellency the President of the United States of Venezuela, General Juan Vicente Gómez, expressed his congratulations of "the exemplary act that had been arranged." As "a high example of Americanism" His Excellency the President of Panama, Mr. Harmodio Arias, described the arrangement; His Excellency President Justo, of Argentina, expressed his congratulations "on the happy end and by the spirit of mutual compenetration and friendly cordiality that such an arrangement reveals."

His Excellency President Sacasa, of Nicaragua, sent his "enthusiastic congratulations on the happy termination of the frontier question with Haiti, in an honorable manner for both nations, thus contributing to the establishment of peace in our America." His Excellency President Ayala, of Paraguay, characterized it as an "outstanding act of concord." "The two countries," said His Excellency President Ibarra, of Ecuador, "have erected an immortal monument to the exalted values of juridical cooperation, honorable life and worthy historical constitutional destiny of of America."

His Excellency President Ubico, of Guatemala, expressed "warm felicitations on the frontier accord, a high and patriotic example of civism given to the world and to the cause of peace in America." His Excellency President Tejeda Solorzano, of Bolivia, sent congratu-

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lations on "the high American spirit that dominated in the pacific solution of the frontier agreement."

On this occasion, all the Presidents of the Americas congratulated President Trujillo, and the Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs received, in his turn, congratulatory messages from the American Chancelleries.

For the execution of the Trujillo-Vincent frontier pact, both governments, in accord, began by sending technical equipment to the regions in which the work of delimitation had been agreed upon, with the purpose of actively defining the exact limits and carrying out the preparatory work; and these labors are now being realized most satisfactorily, and without difficulties of any kind.

So outstanding in its implications and example has this accord been that a movement has arisen to signalize the achievement. The letter that follows describes this movement:

December 14th, 1935.

To the Nobel Peace Prize Committee of the  
Parliament of Norway  
OSLO, Norway.

Mr. President and Members of the Committee:

Mankind is still shaken by the atrocious vision of the last war. We now live in an era of peace, but so distressing a peace that it hardly seems worthy of the name. Our days are more like days of truce, forerunners of another tragedy, since all efforts to avoid it have been useless.

We do not exactly labor on behalf of a steadfast peace by shattering the national finances while we buy new ar-

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maments, nor by signing new war treaties which are synthetically sinister threats, nor by ignoring the rights that countries have to be free, nor even by making our neighbors uneasy by lining cannon all along our border lines.

The illustrious President Rafael Leonidas Trujillo, of the Dominican Republic, and his Haitian colleague, Dr. Stenio Vincent, are both strong supporters of an ideal of common welfare, and they share the ample, noble and generous conviction that peace is a synonym of our neighbour's quiet and ease of mind, of virtue and order in families, of respect for legal rights amongst countries, and of perfect harmony amongst all races and men.

Acting thus, in keeping with their high ideals of patriotism, Presidents Trujillo and Vincent agreed to reach the Dominican-Haitian frontier settlement without any outside interference. Here the mutual sacrifices and concessions do not rob the nations they so properly represent of their dignity and pride. While countries start a fruitless war as a means of settling a bitter controversy of delimitations, the illustrious chiefs of the Dominican and Haitian Republics, like fervent apostles of peace, fully understood that triumph is not complete if it is not inspired by justice and good sense.

Upon a memorable occasion, Secretary of State Cordell Hull, said, in reference to our Americas, that "even though our hemisphere has known difficult eras, nowhere else in the world has a friendly arrangement of international disputes been achieved so sincerely and obtained such a general success." Presidents Trujillo and Vincent have ratified, with the solution of the frontier problem, the golden words of the great American statesman,

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and the painful anxiety in which their countries lived for ninety years has vanished.

For this fraternal work they deserve America's and the world's gratefulness. Their devotion to the noble cause of peace has offered the world a magnificent example. Their names have entered the domains of History.

If you search in all directions the field in which the living forces of mankind are active, you will not find, Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Committee, any two minds better prepared to set a real example of fraternity and concord.

Always, or most of the time, frontier problems have made the litigants look for a solution to their problem by means of war: Leticia, Chaco, Tacna and Arica in our America are evident examples of it. That is why, when Presidents Rafael Leonidas Trujillo and Stenio Vincent tore from the hearts of their people the hatred engendered by years and years of ardent conflicts and useless bloodshed, and on the 27th of February, 1935, signed a treaty which will erase all the frontier difficulties, the League of Nations qualified this most appropriately as a "very happy event which must set an example to the other countries of the world for the solution of their difficulties."

Secretary of State, Cordell Hull, expressed his desire that the example given by the two Presidents be followed each time that a similar situation arises in the Pan-American Union. At the suggestion of the Minister of Costa Rica, this society voted unanimously a resolution on the 3rd of April, 1935, conveying its congratulations to the Presidents and the people of the two countries.

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His Holiness, Pope Pius XI, rejoiced highly by the solution of the question which was once submitted to his predecessor, His Holiness, Pope Leo XIII, who was compelled to decline the arbitration, sent to His Excellency, President Vincent, the following communication, which was published by "Le Nouvelliste," a Port-au-Prince newspaper:

"Stenio Vincent,

President of the Republic of Haiti.

Pius XI, Pope.

Dear son, Illustrious and Honourable Person, Health and Apostolic Blessing:

The settling and limiting of the border line question between the Haitian and the Dominican States has reached a happy solution recently, as we have been informed through your courteous communication.

The Apostolic See is ever concerned with anything which might have disturbed the peace and harmony amongst people being settled satisfactorily for one and all by mutual agreement. In connection with the present case, this happens to be what our worthy predecessor, Leo XIII, demonstrated, when intervening paternally as his position required, and trying to lead the way to a happy ending.

We congratulate you on the conclusion of that treaty and we wish heartily that this convention may bring the desired results, and also that peace, the real source of prosperity, be maintained carefully by the two countries.



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We bestow upon you, dear son, Illustrious and Honourable Person, and upon the whole of the Haitian people, the Apostolic Blessing as a token of our fatherly benevolence.

In Rome, St. Peter's, June 3rd, 1935, 14th of our Pontificate.

Signed: Pius XI, Pope."

His Excellency, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, conveyed his congratulations to President Trujillo, asserting that the agreement "constitutes an example of the capability of our statesmen in the relations amongst American Republics." Señor Niceto Alcalá Zamora, President of the Spanish Republic, also congratulated him upon "the worthy and edifying solution given to the frontier dispute." His Excellency, the President of Venezuela, General J. V. Gómez (now deceased), congratulated him for "the most edifying act he had achieved." Don Harmodio Arias, President of Panama, qualified the act as "a high example of Americanism."

His Excellency, President Justo of Argentina, congratulated President Trujillo "for obtaining so happy a success and for the spirit of mutual understanding and friendship revealed by that agreement." His Excellency, President Sacasa of Nicaragua, congratulated him heartily "upon the highly satisfactory solution of the frontier question with Haiti realized in so worthy a manner by both nations and thus contributing to stabilize peace in our America." As to His Excellency, President Ayala of Paraguay, he qualified it as a "transcendental factor of peace," in his telegram addressed to President Trujillo. His Excellency, President Ibarra of

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Ecuador, stated that "both countries have elevated an immortal monument to the high values of legal cooperation, honourable living and efficacious historical destiny in America."

His Excellency, President Ubico of Guatemala, presented "his warmest congratulations to the Dominican President for the settlement, which was in itself a highly patriotic example given to America and to the world at large." His Excellency, President Tejada Sorzano of Bolivia, congratulated him upon "the highly American spirit which prevailed in the solution of the frontier question." Upon this occasion all the American Presidents congratulated President Trujillo, and the Secretary of State of the Foreign Office also received many congratulatory notes from the Chancelleries.

All these manifestations have impressed this Secretariate of the Foreign Office of the Dominican Republic, so much so that it submits to the consideration of the Nobel Peace Prize Committee of the Parliament of Norway, as candidates for this award for the year 1936, Their Excellencies, Generalissimo Rafael Leonidas Trujillo Molina of the Dominican Republic, and Dr. Stenio Vincent of the Haitian Republic.

I greet you, Mr. President, as well as your distinguished companions, with the expressions of my highest consideration.

DR. M. GARCIA MELLA,  
*Secretary of State for Foreign Relations.*

Numerous prominent citizens of the United States have received the news of the nomination of President Trujillo for the Nobel Peace Prize with great pleasure,

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and have endorsed this step to the award in glowing terms. Among the endorsements forwarded to the committee is the following:

To the Nobel Peace Prize Committee  
of the Parliament of Norway

Oslo, Norway.

Gentlemen:

It is our understanding that the names of President Rafael Leonidas Trujillo Molina of the Dominican Republic and President Stenio Vincent of the Republic of Haiti have been placed in nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize, in recognition of their action in bringing to an end the century-old conflict of the two nations over their mutual boundaries.

Our pleasure in knowing of this has been great, and we feel it an act of justice to add our names to those who endorse this nomination, and to take the opportunity to recommend that the prize be awarded to them.

It is needless for us to recite in detail the history of the border controversy and the steps taken by the two Presidents to make a just and permanent settlement that assures satisfaction, harmony and friendship between the nations in the future. This has been done ably and eloquently by those who have made the nomination. It is sufficient merely to recall that continual and apparently hopeless efforts to determine a line of demarcation between the two countries, which occupy the same island, had agitated the peoples and governments for approximately a hundred years; that conferences, concords, agreements, arbitration, treaties, had been of no

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avail in concluding the disputes; that with the passing years the ill effects of the conflict constantly augmented, to the peril of international relations and of domestic peace and security in both nations, with continuously increasing misunderstanding, jealousy, economic and social loss, and armed conflict; that the two Presidents entered upon their terms of office with the latest of the treaties intended to settle matters, that of 1929, apparently of no more practical value than previous agreements; that by direct personal action, by an interchange of views face to face, with mutual confidence and respect as the basis, these two distinguished individuals cut through all red tape, quickly and decisively settled one by one the disputed points, and almost at a stroke brought peace and a complete, definite arrangement of the entire controversy.

To us it seems that what is more important than a recitation of the negotiations between the two Presidents, brilliant as they were, is an understanding of the principles involved in the peace settlement—principles whose demonstration is undoubtedly one of the most significant and valuable contributions to world peace in the history of the world.

The Nobel Peace Prize has a double function. The first is the rewarding of those who have contributed to world peace in a signal manner, that they may be made aware of the gratitude of the world for their efforts, and that they and others may be stimulated to further and greater peace efforts; this is the less important purpose. The greater purpose is that of acting as a far-reaching peace effort itself, by focussing attention whose significance might otherwise be missed at the moment, on sig-

## SETTLEMENT OF BOUNDARY DESERVES NOBEL PRIZE

nificant actions of individuals and groups; and that purpose is yearly attained by the Nobel Peace Prize, for the entire world benefits by the increased understanding of peace efforts it secures from the awarding of the prize.

This greater purpose will be accomplished in a peculiarly fitting way by the award to President Trujillo and President Vincent. Not only would Latin America and its important peace problems be thrown for the first time into relief by the initial Nobel award to this part of the world, but a true comprehension of the basic principles involved would be made known to the world, with incalculable influence on other nations and peoples everywhere. The two nations are relatively small; they occupy an island instead of a continent; great as has been the approval of those who have studied the matter, the actions of the two Presidents have necessarily not received the world-wide comprehension that the conferring of the award would secure.

Still more appropriate is the fact that the size and the location of the nations have not made the problem which was solved unique—but instead, a problem that applies as an example to every nation of the world. This can be easily understood when we realize that the fundamental problems of practically all countries were faced by the two Presidents. We find on studying the two nations that, like many others, they are contiguous but entirely different in traditions, customs, language; the past has seen them at war several times. In one Spanish is the language, with Spanish traditions the basis of the national culture. In the other French is the language, with French traditions the basis of its national culture. No

## PRESIDENT TRUJILLO AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

two nations of Europe, of Asia, have greater differences and yet a more common basis for true mutual understanding.

Thus, when President Trujillo and President Vincent settled the controversy between their nations, they took a step which is a pattern that applies everywhere. The cause of the conflict itself, a territorial dispute with a mutual desire for territorial aggrandizement—is this not the commonest of the outward causes of war? The obstacles to a just settlement, the ambition to triumph over an ancient enemy and the fear of sacrificing national honor and prestige—are these not the obstacles that all the world knows and dreads?

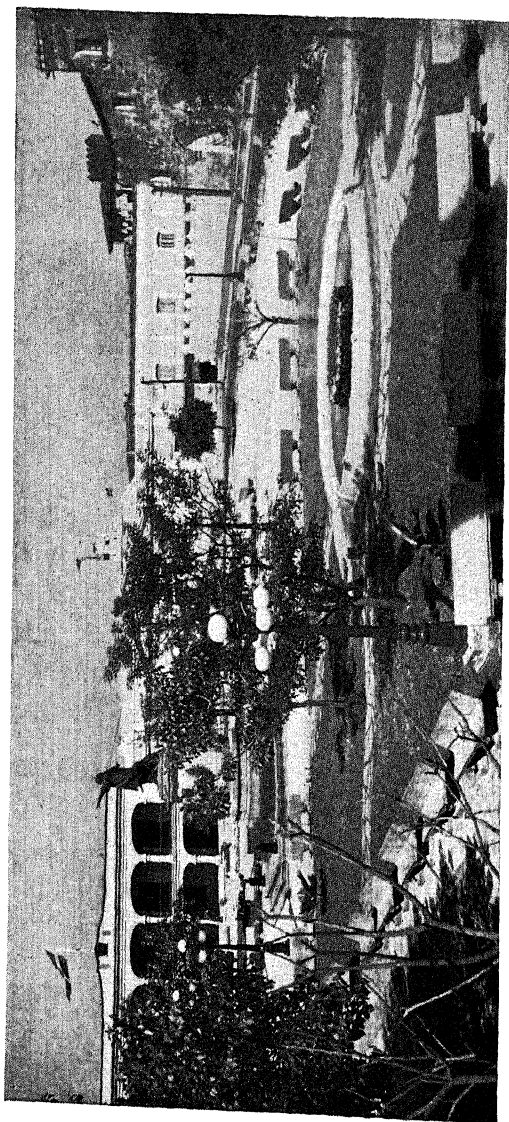
It is clear that this settlement is of world importance. It is important that the world understand the principles on which such settlements can be successfully made. Let us see what those principles are.

The history of the world, and particularly of modern days, demonstrates that the making of peace treaties is relatively easy. What has filled the world with horror is the strong feeling today that such treaties are of no account—that they have no validity in practice.

The principle above all other principles that has been demonstrated by the Dominican-Haitian concord is that a treaty is valid, *when Governments have a real disposition for peace*, that a nation's international problems basically are the domestic problems of chiefs of state and parliamentary representatives who believe in peace and desire it for their nations. The Trujillo-Vincent action is a demonstration that peace can be achieved by the supreme desire for peace.



Here is a scene on one of the busy business streets of Ciudad Trujillo. The entire city is excellently paved, and is kept in immaculate condition. Traffic signals are in operation at principal corners, and with traffic policemen ably regulate the heavy motor traffic. The capital is equipped with splendid and rapid bus service in place of street cars. Transportation is comfortable and inexpensive, with several hundred buses, including double-deck buses from which sightseeing is popular.



View of the Senate Building in the capital, with a charming vista in the foreground. On the right is glimpsed a portion of the Cathedral which has stood for more than four centuries.



## SETTLEMENT OF BOUNDARY DESERVES NOBEL PRIZE

We have here two Presidents elected by their peoples at approximately the same time. As their terms begin, they find looming as a tremendous danger the threat of war, of armed conflict over a century-old border dispute. Yet, amazingly enough, they find that, before the term of either began, a treaty that is just in its general principles had been signed, and theoretically had solved all problems. They examine the reasons for this anomaly—the threat of war in the face of an accomplished treaty.

They find that both sides are unwilling to agree on points not definitely settled by the treaty, but left to an amicable future settlement by commissions. They find the commissions unable to agree, constantly growing farther apart in their views.

To both these men the situation is fantastic. Strongest among the principles which guide them in their work is the feeling that peace and tranquillity are vital for a nation, not merely as a desirable end, but as a medium in which progress can take place. Each in his own nation has established peace and order, holding this condition as all-important. Yet, the relations between the nations are badly strained.

With sentiments such as are theirs, President Trujillo and President Vincent decided on a step so simple as to be breath-taking. Without circumlocution, without delay, they would meet and talk the matter over, like two friends. Magnificent as were the negotiations, in basic practice they were simply that—two friends talking over a simple matter. That ended a dispute of a century—the type of dispute for which untold millions of men,

## PRESIDENT TRUJILLO AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

women and children have died in the history of the world.

In the same period of time there have been many warlike gestures in other nations. There have also been notable peace efforts. No peace effort has been like this, however—has meant so much as an example to the world.

It is for these reasons that we recommend the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to President Trujillo and President Vincent. We who make this recommendation are separated from the two men by country, by language, by race. We look from afar at the island which was the cradle of the New World, the island discovered by Columbus, named after his father, the dominating point for the flow of population from Europe to all of Latin America; and we see there two men who have shown the world the supreme importance of peace, and who by their actions have made possible an understanding of what all other nations may do.

Accept our most distinguished salutations, and our heartfelt wish that you may be guided to a just decision in your important and valued work.

# Chapter XVI

## Foreign Relations



## Chapter XVI

### FOREIGN RELATIONS

AS RELATED in the preceding chapter, the boundary settlement between the Dominican Republic and Haiti was universally hailed as an outstanding act of statesmanship, with important reverberations throughout the world in the example it set for other nations. Among other things, it has made the world conscious of President Trujillo as a statesman of the first rank.

The entire foreign policy of the Dominican Republic since the advent of President Trujillo has been identical in spirit with the statesmanship of the boundary settlement. Relations of amity have been established, and have grown, during the last five years. In addition, President Trujillo has played an active part in international movements for peace and for better understanding among nations.

From the first President Trujillo was a devoted collaborator in the cause of peace in the Americas, and for this reason instructed the Dominican Minister in Washington to cooperate fully with the Commissions of Neutrals which have been active since 1931 in proposing the pacific settlement of differences among various nations of the Americas. In Geneva also the Dominican delegates ardently supported the efforts made by the League of Nations to bring peace to American nations. Besides these moves, the President personally has intervened in a friendly manner in conflicts.

## PRESIDENT TRUJILLO AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The boundary settlement with Haiti afforded an excellent opportunity to use his influence, backed by the power of actual example, and President Trujillo took advantage of this opportunity.

On February 28, 1935, the President sent cablegrams to the Presidents of Bolivia and Paraguay which, advising them of the settlement of the boundary dispute with Haiti, invited them to accept the mediation of their sister nations to bring to a peaceful end the struggle in which Paraguay and Bolivia were engaged. At the same time he cabled to the President of Mexico, suggesting that he foster mediation among all the American nations in the sense indicated, and he expressed himself in a similar way in cablegrams to the Presidents of all Spanish-American republics, as well as to the President of Spain.

Evidence of the magnificent welcome accorded this demonstration of initiative by President Trujillo lies in the words with which his action was eulogized in the Council of the League of Nations by Secretary Avenol, who also took occasion to cable the Secretary of State of Foreign Relations of the Dominican Republic that "members of the League appreciate the noble sentiment which has guided His Excellency President Trujillo in his call to the Presidents of Spanish-American nations" for peace in the Chaco.

President Trujillo had the further satisfaction of receiving, from all the chiefs of state whom he had addressed, warm messages of agreement with his splendid move. His outstanding personality reached the consciousness of the peoples of many nations, and important newspapers everywhere devoted much space to his suggestion and to eulogies of the Dominican leader.

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The following month, on June 14th, on the signing of peace in the Chaco, President Trujillo sent messages of congratulation to the Presidents of Argentina, Paraguay and Bolivia.

The answers he received contained an acknowledgment of the appreciation which his suggestion of peace had merited. In the cable of response from President Justo of Argentina were these words: "In the name of the Argentine people and the Government, I thank you for your brilliant expressions for the celebration of peace, in which our nations have nourished common ideals of fraternity."

President Ayala of Paraguay expressed himself thus: "I receive with deep sympathy the message of Your Excellency on the occasion of the signing of the preliminary protocol of peace. Your Excellency has shown by example your devotion to the sacred principles of justice and concord among nations. My nation will not forget that from your distant nation, the original seat of the vast community of American nations, have come friendly expressions of moral aid and counsel."

President Tejeda Solorzano of Bolivia said in his message: "I am honored in transmitting to Your Excellency, whose truly American role was displayed in the formulation of your hopes for the pacification of the Chaco, the profound gratitude of the Bolivian Government and people for the expressive message of congratulation in which Your Excellency was good enough to join us in the happiness produced by the signing of the protocol of Buenos Aires."

In general affairs with foreign nations, the naming of the actions of President Trujillo indicate quickly how

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wise and vigorous his work of statesmanship has been in assuring and making more brilliant the place of the Dominican Republic in the family of nations.

All obligations under treaties existing at the time of the President's coming into office have been complied with in every way. In addition, numerous new treaties have been signed.

The following instruments have been ratified by President Trujillo:

1. *Moves to link the Republic with coordinated efforts for arbitration, conciliation, and international justice:*

The resolution relative to the establishment of a Court of International Justice, voted by the Assembly of the League of Nations in December, 1931.

The protocol of revision of the Statute of the Permanent Court of International Justice, voted by the Assembly of the League of Nations in September, 1929.

The General Convention on International Conciliation, signed in Washington on January 5, 1929.

The Anti-War Treaty of Non-Aggression and Conciliation, signed in Rio de Janeiro on October 10, 1933.

2. *Moves to link the Republic with progress in international law:*

The Conventions concerning duties and rights of states, in case of civil struggles, concerning refuge, concerning treaties, concerning diplomatic officials, concerning maritime neutrality, and concerning the condition of foreigners, voted in the Sixth International American Conference, at Havana, in 1928.



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The Conventions concerning extradition, concerning political refugees, and concerning the duties and rights of states, voted at the Seventh International American Conference, at Montevideo, in December, 1933.

### 3. *Treaties concerning communications:*

The International Radiotelegraphic Convention (Washington, November, 1927).

The Convention on Commercial Aviation (Havana, February, 1928).

The Convention of the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain (Madrid, November, 1931).

The treaties relating to money orders, and parcel post, between the Americas and Spain (November, 1931).

The Convention concerning automotive traffic (Washington, October, 1930).

The Universal Postal Convention, and subsidiary agreements (London, 1929).

The International Convention of Telephone Communications (Madrid, December, 1932).

The Radiotelegraphic Convention with Cuba (Havana, October, 1926).

### 4. *Labor Treaties:*

The Convention concerning the limitation of hours of labor in industrial establishments (Washington, 1919).

The Convention concerning child labor (Washington, 1929, and Geneva, 1921).

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### 5. *Other Instruments:*

The Pan American Sanitary Code, voted in the Seventh Sanitary Conference, at Havana, in 1929.

The Convention to limit the manufacture and regulate the distribution of narcotics, signed at Geneva, 1931.

The Convention concerning consular agents, at Havana, February, 1928.

The Roerich Pact, placed open for signatures by the Pan American Union, by decision of the Seventh International American Conference, whose object is the adoption of a flag which will protect at all times monuments of artistic or historical importance.

In addition to these instruments, six bilateral treaties with different nations, covering a variety of matters, have been concluded and ratified by President Trujillo.

An active part has been played in international conferences and expositions. President Trujillo has sent delegates to eighty-two international meetings, among which may be cited the annual Assemblies of the League of Nations, the Monetary and Economic Conference of London, the Seventh International American Conference, the International Labor Conferences, and conferences concerning commerce, hygiene, communications, agriculture, education, law unification, etc., held in Europe and the Americas.

During President Trujillo's administration the nation has taken part, with notable success, in the International Exposition of Tropical Flowers, at Miami, 1931; the Latin-American Student Exhibition, New York, 1931; the

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Century of Progress, Chicago, 1933 and 1934; the Tampa Fair, 1934; and the Spanish-American Book Exposition, Ecuador, 1935.

In addition, President Trujillo has accredited various missions to several governments, on the occasion of important events, to cement good will. He has taken special pains to have the Republic comply with the duties of courtesy and solidarity with the nations to which it is most intimately linked. The nation has received from other nations most eloquent demonstrations of sympathy during its national anniversaries, the Presidential inaugurations, and in a most affecting manner, at the time of the hurricane of September, 1930.

Regarding special missions, it may be mentioned that at the first inauguration of President Trujillo on August 16, 1930, sixteen special missions from various nations were present; and that at his second inauguration, on August 16, 1934, the same sixteen nations sent special missions, but each mission was larger and contained more important members, demonstrating the increasing recognition of the importance of the Dominican Republic, and the sincere feeling of appreciation of President Trujillo.

One important step in international relations has been the notable improvement in diplomatic representation in foreign countries. Steps are being taken for an extension of diplomatic representation to all the nations of the Americas.

Outstanding are the good neighbor, good will and friendship policies initiated by President Trujillo and continued constantly with forceful energy.



# Chapter XVII

## The American League of Nations



## Chapter XVII

### THE AMERICAN LEAGUE OF NATIONS

THE breadth of President Trujillo is no more conclusively demonstrated than in his concept of international relations. In the negotiations with the Republic of Haiti, which have been described, he attracted worldwide interest and commendation by the determination to achieve peace under conditions which ordinarily lead to war. In his relations with other nations, the same spirit of fraternity, of a resolute desire to consider other nations friends and co-operators in the common good, has been evident. The extension of diplomatic representation to nations not before on the list, and the care with which the diplomatic corps has been selected, indicate the intense interest of President Trujillo in this field.

Even more than in the relations of the Dominican Republic with individual nations has President Trujillo's attitude been impressive in his more general concept of international harmony. As the author of the widely hailed idea of an American League of Nations, he has shown a sagacity, a sense of perspective, and an international outlook that deserve the highest encomiums.

During the year of 1935, President Trujillo thought much on the subject of an American League of Nations. The opportunity to bring the idea formally before other nations came when President Roosevelt suggested a peace conference of American nations. In his answer to the proposal, President Trujillo for the first time out-

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side the United States made known his plan and thoughts on the subject. The letter of President Roosevelt, the answer of President Trujillo, and the suggestions of the Dominican Government for the agenda of the proposed conference in Buenos Aires, which speak for themselves, follow:

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

January 30, 1936.

His Excellency  
Rafael Leonidas Trujillo Molina,  
President of the Dominican Republic,  
Ciudad Trujillo.

My dear Mr. President:

The agreement by the Governments of Bolivia and Paraguay upon the peace protocols recently negotiated at Buenos Aires has afforded the Government and people of the United States the deepest gratification, since it has led them to hope that there is now every prospect of a permanent and equitable solution of this tragic controversy, which has continued for so long a period; which has caused the sacrifice of so many lives; and which has placed so crushing a burden of expenditure upon the citizens of the two belligerent nations. I know well with what intimate concern the Government and people of the Dominican Republic have followed the course of these hostilities, and their happiness at the termination of the conflict is fully shared by the Government and people of the United States.

I cherish the sincere conviction that the moment has now arrived when the American Republics, through their designated representatives seated at a common council



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table, should seize this altogether favorable opportunity to consider their joint responsibility and their common need of rendering less likely in the future the outbreak or the continuation of hostilities between them, and by so doing, serve in an eminently practical manner the cause of permanent peace on this Western Continent. If the tragedy of the Chaco can be considered as having served any useful end, I believe such end will lie in our joint willingness to profit from the experience learned and to exert our common endeavors in guarding against the repetition of such American disasters.

It has seemed to me that the American Governments might for these reasons view favorably the suggestion that an extraordinary inter-American conference be summoned to assemble at an early date, at Buenos Aires, should the Government of the Argentine Republic so desire, or, if not, at some other capital of this Continent, to determine how the maintenance of peace among the American Republics may best be safeguarded—whether, perhaps, through the prompt ratification of all the inter-American peace instruments already negotiated; whether through the amendment of existing peace instruments in such manner as experience has demonstrated to be most necessary; or perhaps through the creation by common accord of new instruments of peace additional to those already formulated.

These steps, furthermore, would advance the cause of world peace, inasmuch as the agreements which might be reached would supplement and reinforce the efforts of the League of Nations and of all other existing or future peace agencies in seeking to prevent war.

With the conclusion of the Chaco War and with the

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reestablishment of peace throughout this Continent, there would appear to be offered an opportunity for helpful counsel among our respective governments which may not soon again be presented. Your Excellency's devotion to the maintenance of peace between the American Republics is well known, and I would therefore deeply appreciate such views as Your Excellency may care to express to me, as I would likewise value highly Your Excellency's opinion whether such a special inter-American conference of the American Republics would not in fact prove most beneficial.

I am addressing myself thus personally to Your Excellency, instead of through the usual diplomatic channels, because of my thought that the questions at issue are of such vital concern to the peoples of this Continent as to warrant a personal interchange of views between the Presidents of the American Republics.

With the expression of my warm regard, believe me, my dear Mr. President,

Faithfully yours,

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Ciudad Trujillo,

District of Santo Domingo,

February 11, 1936.

His Excellency

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. President:

The letter which Your Excellency deemed fit to address to me in regard to the purpose in mind of convok-

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ing at an early date an extraordinary inter-American conference in order to determine the means of strengthening firmly the ties of peace and friendship between the nations of the New Continent, either by providing for the immediate ratification of the peace conventions already negotiated, or for the amendment of those which because of defects discovered in practice have not produced the beneficial results contemplated when they were concluded, or by the creation of new international instruments that may assure the well-being and the happiness of the peoples of America under the aegis of mutual agreement and common understanding, is eminently satisfactory to me.

The ideas which Your Excellency expresses therein in order to make manifest the profitable experience which the nations of the Western Hemisphere must have acquired in view of the sad spectacle which Bolivia and Paraguay offered to the world in their sanguinary Chaco dispute as well as in order to indicate the propitiousness of the present moment, after the happy reestablishment of peace between the two belligerent nations, for directing the common effort of the American peoples against the possible repetition of such lamentable events as that which has just been concluded in South America, demonstrate Your Excellency's unique ability to put into practice the ideal of peace maintained by the Nations of the New World, and they strengthen my faith that these nations will, within a brief period of time, be in a position to fulfill their high destinies in consonance with the strict postulates of universal justice and in accordance with the standards of rectitude and good faith which international morality proclaims as fundamental.

## PRESIDENT TRUJILLO AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

I must declare without reservation that not only do I adhere to Your Excellency's high design of sponsoring the meeting of an extraordinary conference wherein the States of America may agree upon the adoption of measures particularly directed towards the assurance of peace among themselves but also that, repeating an idea expressed by myself publicly in July, 1935, I hasten to advance the suggestion that the agenda of the projected conference include, as a capital point, the study of the possibility of founding a League of American Nations of a permanent character, the action of which would be more efficacious and advantageous for our countries than that of the League of Nations.

The continental organization thus created could, like the similar one at Geneva, hold periodic general assemblies, be represented permanently by a directive committee or council and act according to the tenor of the provisions of a covenant the primary objective of which would be to lay the foundations of Pan American international justice.

Without its implying disagreement on my part with Your Excellency's suggestion that the City of Buenos Aires be chosen as the seat of the proposed conference, I take the liberty of pointing out that, in view of the notable historical significance which the carrying out of Your Excellency's plan must have, and bearing in mind the nation in which the plan has been conceived, it is to the City of Washington, capital of the first Republic founded on American soil, that the honor of serving as the place for the meeting of the conference properly belongs.

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Your Excellency may be assured in advance that the Dominican nation and Government will contribute with all the means at their command, and insofar as it is incumbent upon them, to the most complete success of the inter-American conference.

I thank Your Excellency from my heart for your spontaneous recognition of the efforts made by me under past circumstances for the maintenance of peace among the Republics of America and particularly of the interest with which the Dominican people and Government followed the course of the hostilities in the Chaco and the fervent endeavors which I made to the end that that conflict might be promptly and satisfactorily solved without wounding the dignity and honor of the sister nations which were involved therein.

Lastly, may Your Excellency permit me to express my cordial congratulations on the proof of thorough Americanism which you are offering to the peoples of the New World by your noble and beautiful initiative.

Very cordially yours,

RAFAEL L. TRUJILLO.

*Suggestion presented by the Government of the Dominican Republic for the program of the Inter-American Conference for the Maintenance of Peace.*

The Dominican Republic is traditionally peace loving, and the history of her relations with the other nations of the American Continent is characterized by a firm determination to create and advance each day the fraternal ties of solidarity by which the nations of America are united, through our common ethnic origin, our common destinies, and our manifest community of interests.

## PRESIDENT TRUJILLO AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Because of her love of peace, the Dominican Republic has been able to occupy a distinguished place in the struggle to banish the phantom of war from our hemisphere. We have not engaged in war with other nations, except to win our independence and to serve the universal cause in defending the principles of justice which make dignity among men and peace among nations possible. When war was looked upon as a proper means by which to settle international disputes, the Dominican Republic resorted to arbitration in a noble and sincere desire to secure the acceptance of norms of peace in the conduct of the relations among nations. With this purpose it is established in its present Fundamental Statute, and likewise in all those which she has had in the past, that the powers therein established may not declare war without first proposing arbitration.

Led in these moments by a soldier-statesman, in whose hands the sword is a virile symbol of concord, she has been able to see clearly the paths which will take us to the peace of the Continent, paths based on a common understanding to prevent and neutralize all the pitfalls with which the vicissitudes of history may at any time threaten the solidarity of the Continent.

Just a year ago the voice of the Dominican Republic was heard in the world through the person of her Head of State, soliciting the intervention of the brother nations of the Continent, under the impulse of the noble desire to bring to an end, through assistance and counsel, the sanguinary conflict of the Chaco, in which Bolivia and Paraguay were engaged. This action was taken in our capital when the President of the Republic of Haiti, on that occasion the guest of the Dominican Gov-

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ernment, signed, jointly with our Head of State, an agreement by which the boundary dispute between the two nations which share the sovereignty of the Island was peacefully, definitively, and loyally settled.

During those same days our Head of State initiated the idea of a League of American nations, whose activity, as he expressed it later in his reply to President Roosevelt: "should be without doubt more efficacious and advantageous to our countries than the League of Nations."

In this manner the Dominican Republic anticipated the American ideal which one year later was to find concrete expression in the initiative launched at Washington by the renowned statesman who at this moment directs the destinies of the North American democracy.

America presents the extraordinary spectacle of a world in which frontier divisions are but symbols of concord traced by destiny to bring out more clearly the ideals of solidarity, made imperishable by the original unity of race and language. In the midst of the great tribulations which the world suffers, the hopes of the nations find refuge in America and seek in her the strength with which to resist the anarchy and discord which trouble the older nations of the world.

The present League of Nations, the result of the efforts in behalf of peace which followed the last world war, has encountered so many difficulties that the world has come to the point of losing faith in the efficacy of its noble guidance. The dominance of the interests of the great European powers in the institution at Geneva has stirred up chaotic racial antagonisms, the terrible con-

## PRESIDENT TRUJILLO AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

flict of political interests, which render impossible all efforts at conciliation, and the struggle for commercial supremacy which aggravates the economic problems with which the nations are struggling desperately, awaken ancient hates and neutralize the efforts of the League, which on the other hand is the daughter of America, conceived and planned by the apostolic vision of the great American statesman, Woodrow Wilson.

America has had on the other continents only the discouraging example of a world which grows old in instability and reaction. Europe, weighed down by the heritage of the darkest ages of history, has many times offered America the sad spectacle of mental greatness contrasted with inefficacious and complicated political theories. In the presence of this example, our peoples have had a constant desire to repudiate these theories and a steadfast purpose to disconnect their interests from the confused germination of conflicts in which the interests of the old world appear involved. Our participation in the problems of Europe and our presence at the conferences called to solve them are the outward manifestations of a fervent desire to contribute to the happiness of the world by taking to Europe our vitality of young and sincere pacifism, where there is apparently lacking the bases of the edifice capable of sheltering the hope for concord, peace, and fraternity with which the universal conscience is full.

Hopeful of contributing to the peace of the world, America has adhered to the League of Nations, not for the purpose of solving its own problems, which are all simple and easy of solution, but to give its aid in solving those of Europe, which are capable of affecting and troubling the tranquillity of the world. That League of



## THE AMERICAN LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Nations does not nor has at any moment responded to the American ideal of peace. Consequently, America has evolved alone and has had to find within herself the teachings which will give her the means by which to lead the world along the new paths of history.

The President of the Dominican Republic, Generalissimo Rafael Leonidas Trujillo Molina, inspired by the most sound principles of solidarity, and accepting in an elevated Pan American spirit the proposal of President Roosevelt, advanced the idea that there be established at this great assembly of peace the solid bases of an inter-American organization capable of assuming the responsibility of a pact as lasting as the very conscience of the continent and as firm as the foundations of its mountains.

Two hundred and sixty-five million men of all races, commingled in a proportion which excludes the dominance of any one race, form the new humanity of America. To it belongs the future of the world and it appears before history as the only possible creator of the true international harmony.

In the ideas above expressed, the Government of the Dominican Republic, true to the tradition of America and to the ideal of peace which will call us together in the near future, proposes that on the program of the forthcoming inter-American Conference at Buenos Aires there appear a topic on the creation of a League of American Nations empowered to study and solve our problems in a spirit of true and permanent solidarity, and to give to the nations of this Hemisphere an absolute equality in the juridical conception of continental peace.



# Chapter XVIII

## The Columbus Lighthouse



## Chapter XVIII

### THE COLUMBUS LIGHTHOUSE

ONE of the projects of enormous interest to the citizens of the Dominican Republic, as well as to the people of all the nations of the Americas, is the proposal to erect a lighthouse as a memorial to Columbus, intended as a practical aid to both navigation and aviation. The time for the accomplishment of this project is rapidly drawing near.

Since the many preliminary steps, the first concourse of competing architects, from whose plans the prize design ultimately would be selected, was held in Madrid, April, 1929, under the patronage of the Spanish Government. It is a note of marked interest that at the competition there were registered 455 architects, many of the first rank, from 48 countries.

Pursuant to the announced conditions, 10 preliminary designs were chosen by the jury of award, for which each contestant received a major premium of \$2,000 paid by the Dominican Government, and smaller awards in cash were made to secondary contenders whose designs were held to be meritorious. Of the 10 successful contestants who became finalists, three were from the United States, three from France, and one each from Germany, England, Italy and Spain.

These architects then had at their disposal the ideas embraced in all plans submitted at Madrid and were invited to resubmit their revised conceptions with models

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at the final concourse celebrated under the patronage of the Brazilian authorities at Rio de Janeiro in October, 1931, when a jury of three architects of international renown in their profession made the final award of the prize for the design which would become official and accepted for execution.

The verdict was unanimous in favor of a design submitted by J. L. Gleave, a young English architect of Nottingham, a recent graduate of the Manchester School of Architecture. The idea evolved by him is original for memorials, in its imaginative power, recumbent in form instead of vertical, and symbolizing the cross of Christianity, which Columbus planted in the New World.

For his wonderful creation the successful architect was awarded a cash prize of \$10,000, also paid by the Dominican Government.

The resolution by the assembly of the League of Nations adopted September, 1931, giving its stamp of approval to the project, also carries it far afield from the original conception as a Pan American endeavor, by extending to its aid world-wide support.

Two additional steps forward and of obvious significance were taken in 1933. The first was the reproduction in miniature of the official design at the Century of Progress International Exposition, Chicago, on a site central and ideal, the construction besing supervised under the personal direction of the successful architect. The exhibit attracted the attention of hundreds of thousands of visitors to the great fair. Entitled to favorable comment is the fact that, as certified by the exposition administration, the Dominican Republic enjoyed the distinction of being

## THE COLUMBUS LIGHTHOUSE

the sole Latin American country having its own unit as a distinct exhibit.

The second development, also of marked import, was the resolution adopted December 22, 1933, by the Seventh Pan American Conference at Montevideo, Uruguay, in further emphatic support of and adhesion to the Columbus Memorial.

Launched originally in July, 1914, on the eve of the World War, and necessarily shelved during the ensuing period of universal upheaval, the movement had a fresh start in 1922, since which date it has received favorable editorial comment in the press of many lands.

Approved and endorsed by the Fifth Pan American Conference, Chile, 1923, as well as by the succeeding Sixth Conference of the Pan American States, Havana, 1928, it, like all similar undertakings of magnitude, experienced the common fate incident to the world-wide economic depression of 1929 and the years following. Its intrinsic merit has been accentuated with the passage of the years, notwithstanding the obstacles and vicissitudes encountered and to be expected in connection with such a project.

Now, with the latest endorsement and vote of adhesion given by the Seventh Pan American Conference in Montevideo, 1933, that formal action taken, if translated into deed and serious activity by various agencies coordinated in a way to achieve results, the necessary concrete development should be forthcoming.

Trujillo City, the first permanent Christian settlement (1496) of the Spaniards in the New World, steeped in the romance of past ages, is the chosen spot for the fit-

## PRESIDENT TRUJILLO AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

ting though belated homage in enduring form to the Great Discoverer, the original blazer of the trail, whose transcendental achievement in the face of crushing obstacles has meant so much to all Americans—a truly altruistic undertaking which, by reason of its non-political, non-sectarian but purely international appeal, symbolizes Pan American solidarity at its best.

By Dominican law the project was declared “a public utility of great national interest” (Official Gazette No. 3803, November 10, 1926).

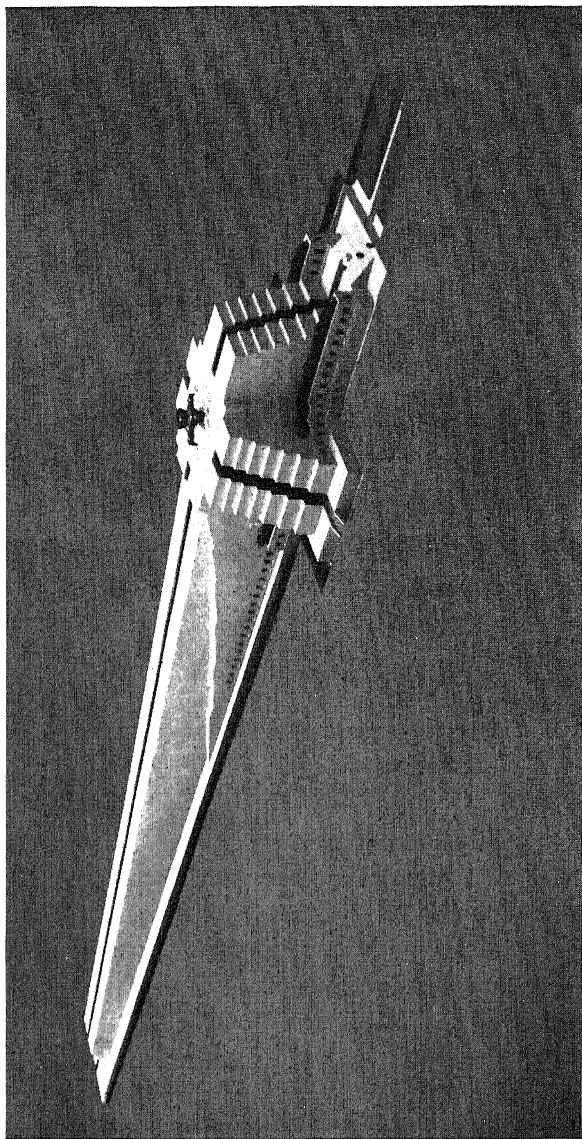
Dr. L. S. Rowe, Director General of the Pan American Union, has written this concerning the projected memorial:

“The plan for the erection of a continental memorial to the Great Discoverer is one that is certain to kindle the imagination of all the nations of this continent.

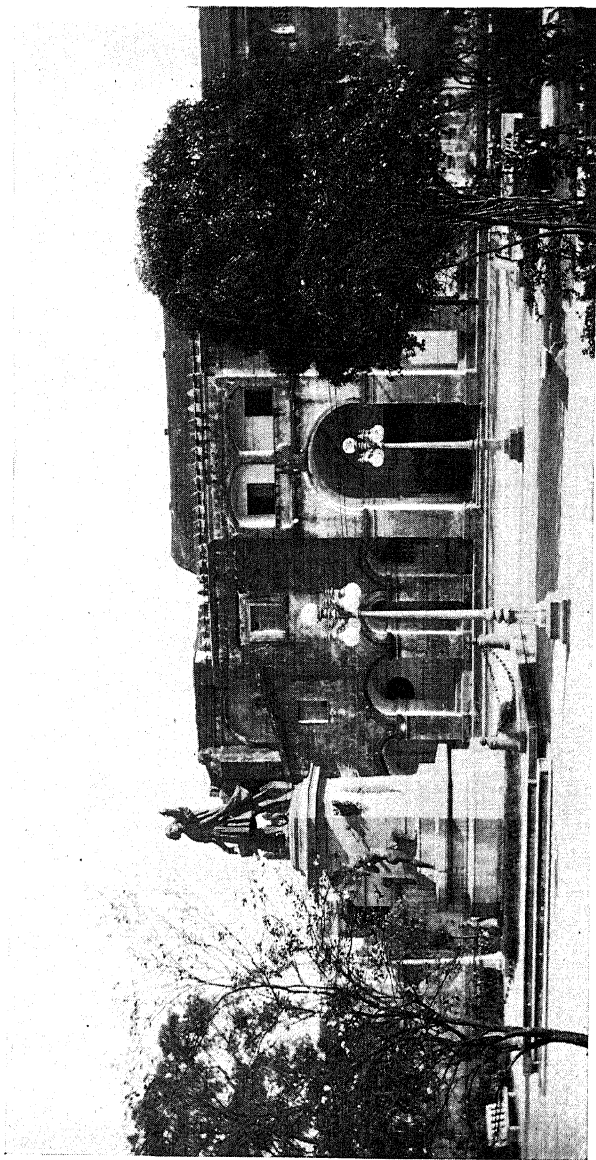
“Warmly approved by the Fifth International Conference of American States held at Santiago, Chile, and by the Sixth Conference held at Havana, the project may be said to have the united support of the nations of America. The resolution adopted by the Assembly of the League of Nations carries this approval one step further by giving to the project world-wide support.

“Every one interested in this great memorial owes a debt of gratitude to the Government of the Dominican Republic, which at considerable sacrifice has defrayed all the preliminary expenses. This has involved in the first place a world-wide competition of architects whose projects were exhibited at Madrid in April, 1929, and subsequently at Rome. The international jury which viewed this exhibit selected the 10 best designs, and the architects





This is the way the Columbus Memorial Lighthouse will look when completed. This magnificent beacon, planned as a memorial to the Great Discoverer, will be erected at Trujillo City. It has worldwide significance, having been approved by the Pan American Union and the Council of the League of Nations. President Trujillo has been the stimulus of the project, and is hopeful of starting construction in the near future.



One of the world's most dramatic statues, at Trujillo City. Here Christopher Columbus stands, pointing ever westward, in his expression the indomitable courage that enabled him to change the course of history. It is impossible to view this statue without a thrill, in the very spot where Columbus founded the New World, and where his remains today rest.

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thus selected entered upon the second competition. The designs submitted in this competition were exhibited at Rio de Janeiro in October, 1931. The international jury awarded the first prize to Mr. J. L. Gleave, of Manchester, England. The premiated design is in every respect worthy of its great purpose.

“Now that all the preliminary steps have been taken, the time has arrived for the assembling of funds necessary for the construction of the lighthouse. The government of the Dominican Republic has generously set aside a magnificent park, and it is confidently expected that not only the governments of the American Republics will make their contributions but that popular subscriptions from every part of the world will also be forthcoming.

“The memorial, in addition to its great monumental significance, will also serve a highly useful purpose as a beacon to navigators by sea and by air. The Dominican Republic has become a great crossroads of aerial navigation, and a beacon such as that which the Columbus Memorial Lighthouse will afford will mean much to the safety of travel.”

The tremendous project of the Columbus Lighthouse has found in President Trujillo a decided and stimulating leader. He has furthered and authorized the expense of more than one hundred thousand dollars to cover the costs of this project during the last five years.

It was due to his robust faith that the final step in the world congress for the making of definite plans for this monument was not postponed. This final step was taken, thanks to the persevering energy with which President Trujillo sponsored it; and thus it was that in Rio de

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Janeiro, in October, 1931, in a solemn ceremony in which the President of Brazil, the Cardinal Archbishop of Rio de Janeiro, the international jury and a special Dominican mission took part, the English architect, J. L. Gleave, was pronounced winner of the contest in which architects from the principal nations of Europe and the Americas had competed. A short time after this, President Trujillo arranged for Mr. Gleave to visit the Dominican Republic, where he was treated with the greatest cordiality and hospitality.

Following instructions of President Trujillo, the Dominican delegation at the twelfth Assembly of the League of Nations, in 1932, arranged for this high body to give a vote of sympathy for this great project, and a similar vote was given a little later by the Third Pan American Postal Congress, held in Madrid.

President Trujillo caused expositions to exhibit the Gleave model of the lighthouse to be given in Buenos Aires and Montevideo, 1932, both of which received great acclaim. And to take advantage of the great opportunity offered by the Century of Progress exposition in Chicago, 1933 and 1934, he arranged for Mr. Gleave himself to exhibit there a giant model of the lighthouse in a central site. This was much admired and represented the participation of the Dominican Republic in the exposition.

Further publicity has been given by President Trujillo through a special world delegate of the Dominican Republic who acted in 1931, 1932, and 1933, and who obtained the publication of photographs and articles alluding to the lighthouse in the principal newspapers and magazines of Europe and the Americas, working through the legations and consulates of the Republic.

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President Trujillo has formed, naming distinguished personalities for it, the Permanent Executive Committee of the Columbus Lighthouse, which functions in Trujillo City. He continues to promote the cooperation which has been lent by the Pan American Union in everything relative to the project.

Finally, it should be noted that the capital Seventh International American Conference in Montevideo in 1933 passed two resolutions to recommend to all American governments that they continue giving their aid to the lighthouse project; to express thanks to the Dominican Government for the generosity with which it has facilitated the work done up to date; and to recommend to the nations belonging to the Pan American Union the need to contribute their respective quotas for the erection of the monument.

The most recent activity of President Trujillo in aid of this project is the instructing of Dominican Legations to foster the formation of national commissions for the lighthouse in the capitals of American nations.

On May 1, 1932, President Trujillo issued a special message to the Pan American Union regarding the Columbus Memorial. Because of its great interest, it is quoted here:

“Mine is a singular satisfaction in seeing how the great project of a commemorative lighthouse for Christopher Columbus in the capital of our Republic is approaching a beautiful realization, in this land which was, by the design of providence, the seat of civilization of the New World.

“This great movement of ours, initiated by the Pan

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American Union and approved as a matter of universal interest by the League of Nations, will culminate in a marvel of consecrated stone.

“The Lighthouse must be not only a testimonial of eternal gratitude to the Great Discoverer nor a gigantic plastic portrayal of his great dream and luminous achievements, but also, what is more important, a symbol of international harmony through the supreme law of love, without which happy fraternity among the nations cannot be achieved.

“And it is precisely the cross—the form of monument awarded the prize in the Lighthouse Contest—that is the symbol par excellence of love, the most eloquent expression of the Christian ideal, the purest concept of amity among men and peoples.

“Such is the powerful conception of the architect Gleave, who has had the genius to mold into an eternal stone model the majesty of an achievement considered the greatest in history since Christianity.

“I express, in the name of our people, the most profound acknowledgment to all the nations interested in the erection of the lighthouse, and particularly to the Pan American Union, which has embraced the project with such great affection; and I hope that the nations that have not yet shared in the solidarity of this glorifying tribute will do so, because in this way the monument to the memory of Columbus will be a universal tribute to his genius and his work.

“May the light of the monument be like a banner of love beneath which may mingle in a sphere of peace all

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the peoples of the world, just as Columbus, with the aid of Spain, as noble as he was heroic, was the highest instrument of understanding among nations, through the extraordinary influence which the discovery of America has had in the progress of humanity.”





# Chapter XIX

## Other Accomplishments



## Chapter XIX

### OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

SO MANY and so interesting have been the activities of President Trujillo since his first inauguration in 1930 that it has been possible only to sketch in outline the major accomplishments of his administration within the confines of this volume. Besides these, there are many other accomplishments of importance, and in this chapter a few of them will be briefly described.

One project that is interesting not only because of its necessity and importance to the nation but also because of the unique manner in which it was accomplished is the taking of a national census in May, 1935.

The work of taking a census had always been a great stumbling-block for previous administrations, both because of the length of time it was estimated would be necessary and because of the high cost, never estimated at less than half a million dollars. Because of the lack of communication to many remote spots in the Republic, the feasibility of the project was questioned.

During the period of the American Military Occupation, however, a census was attempted. A sufficient amount of money was spent on the work, and nearly two years were consumed in gathering statistics, but the result was hardly more than a good intention; it neither gave the facts nor accomplished the ends for which it was ordered.

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President Trujillo appreciated the urgent necessity of an adequate census as a basis for proper governmental operation, and with the dynamic energy which characterizes him, he worked out a plan for it, and then put it into execution, which combined rapidity, economy and accuracy.

The work was turned over to the Dominican Party, of which the President is creator and chief. This organization maintains active groups everywhere in the nation, and is admirably disciplined. Giving the work to it assured the success of the project, because it includes in its roster all the living forces of the nation.

Four enumerations were made: homes, population, farms and livestock, and forests and mines. For the first three (the fourth required technical men) more than 30,000 people were mobilized to cover the entire nation in a single day. This civilian army had been perfectly trained for its work, and took a census equal in accuracy to the best of its kind anywhere in the world, at the incredibly low cost of \$70,000.

There is little doubt that a task of this nature would be difficult to duplicate in any other civilized nation. That it was possible in the Dominican Republic is due to the zeal with which Dominicans comply with the wishes of their leader, the love they have for him, and their faith that the Government is bringing them rich rewards.

President Trujillo was vastly pleased by the success of the project, because it demonstrated the efficiency of the organization he used; because it gave the nation a badly-needed enumeration; and above all, because foreign aid was not required.

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Although the statistical work concerned with the census was not concluded at the time these words were written, due to the vast amount of work involved, President Trujillo announced the basic figures in an eloquent proclamation on August 16, 1935. His proclamation says:

“On this day, the anniversary of the restoration of our independence, I salute the nation, and pay homage to the memory of our national heroes, and I take the opportunity to offer my fellow-citizens the exact figures of our population census. This census is one of the accomplishments of which I am most proud, in the first year of my second term, because it was compiled by the Dominican Party, the fruit of my arduous efforts, and the crystallization of my highest ideals.

“The guiding of a state today is impossible without proper statistics, and the census is the cornerstone on which such direction rests. A work of scientific precision and incalculable importance, it should reflect absolute accuracy, in order to fulfill its mission. The maintenance of a disciplined organization for the purpose, one capable of accomplishing such a responsible work, is the cause of much anxiety for many nations. The creation of such a project costs enormous sums in all countries, and in our own it would have been impossible in former days, when the spirit of work, economy and efficiency was not dominant as it is today.

“The Dominican Party, with admirable effort, economy and accuracy, has compiled a census of homes, population, and farms and livestock, at the lowest cost of any census in the world, with the same perfection of special organizations for the purpose in other nations.

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“I feel a just pride today as I give my fellow-citizens the first figures of the population census. The urban and rural population of the Republic on May 13, 1935, by provinces, was as follows:

<i>Province</i>	<i>Urban Pop.</i>	<i>Rural Pop.</i>	<i>Total Pop.</i>
National District .....	71,297	22,910	94,207
Trujillo .....	15,227	144,458	159,685
Santiago .....	40,216	153,029	193,245
La Vega .....	13,993	152,274	166,267
Azua .....	14,489	144,835	159,324
San Pedro de Macoris...	19,687	39,995	59,682
Puerto Plata .....	14,016	88,142	102,158
Monte Cristy .....	7,551	76,906	86,457
Duarte .....	14,605	106,303	120,908
El Seybo .....	20,412	114,366	134,778
Espailat .....	9,252	72,133	81,385
Barahona .....	16,388	78,921	95,309
Samana .....	7,091	17,625	24,716

“The Republic, therefore, has 1,478,121 inhabitants, occupying 304,523 buildings, in the 50,070 square kilometers of our national territory.

“This gratifying result of the census fills me with rejoicing, and should make every Dominican happy. It demonstrates that in every way we progress—a progress that nourishes my faith and enables me to confirm solemnly my promise to lead the nation through paths of glory, and to make the Republic, already great in its history, still greater through its order and its unconquerable determination to attain its highest destinies.”

In surveying the state of the nation, mention should be made of the measures taken by President Trujillo's ad-

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ministration in the field of health and sanitation. Among these are:

*a.* The nation has been divided into as many sanitary districts as there are provinces, with a capable physician in charge of each district. Offices of the department have been equipped and modernized.

*b.* For the improvement of sanitation service, the federal government has taken it over, exempting the municipalities from this work.

*c.* A sanitation campaign has been continuously conducted by means of twenty-four Sanitary Brigades who travel throughout the nation, giving treatment where necessary, and doing advisory and educational work in sanitation, hygiene and health. Once a year a Sanitation Week is observed.

*d.* New measures against the introduction and use of narcotics have been put in force.

*e.* A national service for cleanliness has been established.

*f.* Campaigns against mosquitoes, removing breeding spots, have been conducted, as well as rat-elimination campaigns.

*g.* Severe regulations relating to food adulteration have been put in force, and the National Laboratory devotes constant attention to this field.

*h.* The care of the insane and of the contagiously sick has been greatly improved, with excellent results.

*i.* Immunization of dogs against rabies has been carried out.

## PRESIDENT TRUJILLO AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

*j.* Sanitary and repressive measures have been taken against prostitution.

*k.* The Dominican Red Cross has been reorganized for better functioning.

*l.* Three new hospitals have been built, one of them for children; and nine more are supported in different communities of the Republic. All these hospitals have been well organized and equipped.

*m.* Twenty-six dispensaries have been created, including two for tuberculosis, and two for social diseases.

*n.* Fourteen homes for the aged, orphans, and the indigent have been maintained, besides two new ones that have been built in Trujillo City.

*o.* Vaccination against diphtheria, smallpox, etc., has been carried out.

*p.* The Dominican Medical Congress was created by decree of President Trujillo, and had its first gathering under official sponsorship in October, 1933, and its second gathering in 1935.

The Dominican Republic enjoys today, thanks to the measures taken, excellent sanitary and health conditions. The absence of epidemics and the increase in population are notable. In the three-month period ending July 31, 1935, the population increase was 26.46 per thousand.

President Trujillo has concentrated on measures of importance to aid agriculture and industry, as has been previously pointed out. In this work he has not neglected the immediate needs of farmers and workers, and numerous laws and regulations have been taken for their protection. Among these the following should be cited:



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*a.* A project of a Labor Code, which has now been formulated.

*b.* Ratification of international conventions regarding the age of children permitted to work, and the promulgation of a law, entirely new, regarding accidents at work.

*c.* Financial aid to the Dominican Federation of Labor for the construction of a building for its meetings, and for a school.

*d.* Initiation and promulgation of laws to protect ranch workers.

*e.* Laws to give employment to Dominicans in foreign companies in the Dominican Republic.

*f.* Regulations to prevent unjustified advances in the price of necessary foods.

As a background for every type of activity in the Dominican Republic, an atmosphere of peace and order has been of vital importance, and every effort has been made, with complete success, to create such an atmosphere.

One of President Trujillo's most interesting plans, demonstrating his constant interest in all ranks of people, was announced on May 31, 1936, which is Mother's Day in the Dominican Republic, in a proclamation that follows:

"I have always believed that doing good is the incapable duty of all human beings, and that in the life of peoples it is a proof of moral greatness and superiority.

"Because of this, throughout my life, long before the unanimous will of my fellow citizens elevated me to the Presidency of the Republic, there has not been a moment

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in which I have not complied—obeying the impulse for the common welfare which beats in my heart—with the pleasant duty of relieving necessities, of offering aid to the needy, of giving bread to the hungry and of assuaging maternal tears with the tenderness which all those feel who, like myself, make love for one's parents an intense and inextinguishable belief. My difficult labors following the great catastrophe of September 3, 1935, and the many acts of charity and pardon which I have been able to perform since then, constitute one of my greatest sources of pride as leader of the Dominican people.

“In conformity with the Aristotelian concept, without love for those about us—the fountain of charity—no relations whatever can exist in the life of society. A society is inconceivable in which there is not an interchange of services, some of them acts of justice, and others of charity. But I believe even more than this; I believe that the practice of good is the most excellent of human virtues, and that forgetting it in the past has made unstable and ephemeral the noisy triumphs with which other peoples and other men have filled the pages of history.

“No one has the right to be deaf and blind when faced with human misfortune. It makes no difference that in many cases there has been neglect in the relationship between the benefactor and the one aided, and that on repeated occasions the generous actions of the benefactor have met with the sterile recompense of unmerited ingratitude. A good act performed with the hope of being repaid is nothing more than an investment made under the guise of humanitarianism. The real good is that

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which gives us the satisfaction of having done our duty, without counting on the improbable recognition of those whom we aid. Unhappy is the sower of seeds who believes that all the seeds he spreads in the soil with a generous hand will take root and grow!

“Engaged always in a struggle which does not know discouragement—a struggle for the welfare of my fellow citizens—the constructive action of my administration has been with the purpose of satisfying with fruitful realities the material needs of the nation whose destinies I have been honored to direct. But this struggle and the arduous path which have taken the best years of my life have never made me forget the belief I have that, for a people to be happy, its spiritual level must always keep pace with its material advancement. You will recall my saying on a previous occasion: ‘To govern means to nourish: to nourish the body, to nourish the heart, to nourish the soul, to nourish the mind, to nourish the spirit, to nourish the conscience; a synthesis of action which makes me try every hour to complete some act of government. It is a belief which takes me through action after action, battling with all my strength to achieve the happy day which will show our nation filled with work and with workers.’ A young people like ours needs to temper its reconstructive energy with the tremendous force of its humanitarian sentiments, and with the pure and good Dominicanism of its civic ethics, in order that this work of love, of mutual respect and consideration, of vigilant protection of all that is ours, shall be the best defense of our soil and our flag.

“And that every Dominican be really worthy of being so named, he must feel linked to the pains and the joys

## PRESIDENT TRUJILLO AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

of others, so that the belief in the nation, the home, the family, and similar institutions shall be points of honor in sustaining and elevating the national sentiment. Peoples are respected only when they show their force or their capacity for sacrifice, for resistance and for abnegation.

“It is for this reason that I consider the hour has come to appeal to the heart of every Dominican that through the medium of a unanimous and decisive action of charitable brotherhood, we initiate the spiritual nearness and material solidarity of the Dominican family.

“It is undeniable that our living standard is highly satisfactory, and that problems of the public good that have not been solved fully by my administration do not exist. But it is precisely for this reason that it is opportune today to appeal for the same aid from their hearts and feelings to those who before have given with their muscles and their creative intelligence, to complete the social and political evolution of the Republic toward new horizons of progress and civilization.

“I appeal to the love of our people, without demanding sacrifices nor imposing taxes, that an institution be created called the ‘Day of the Poor,’ for the benefit of the needy. I confide this to the enthusiasm of our people, sure that in this great movement of national cooperation women, men and children will undertake the happy duty of renouncing, perhaps once each month, all luxury and all that is not necessary and of the spirit, so that in this sacrifice in our homes we can offer a lesson in humanity to our children, teaching them to understand that with these voluntary privations on the ap-

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pointed day they can spread happiness and love to neighbors who are in need.

“Everyone should know that on this occasion opulence should not be shown ostentatiously, nor should modesty be humiliated. It should be a common effort, and of sincere intention. To be really meritorious, it should be the certain product of humanitarian privations in every Dominican home.

“I present this plea on this day in which we revere the memory or the life of our mothers, and I have wanted to call to the public conscience in an objective manner, and it is in this spirit that I have made my efforts to assure peace and progress in the present, and the future greatness of our nation, worthy, noble and humanitarian.”



## PART THREE:

Sidelights and Estimates of President Trujillo





# Chapter XX

## The Civic Primer



## Chapter XX

### THE CIVIC PRIMER

ONE of the most unusual and significant acts of President Trujillo during his administration was the writing of a civic primer for the children of the Dominican Republic. A vital part of President Trujillo's program of rehabilitation and reform has been the instilling of a feeling of civic responsibility, national unity and patriotic strength among a people who had become listless and discouraged through years of chaotic government, inefficient and unscrupulous leaders, and economic chaos. That his campaign has been successful is evident to any visitor to the Dominican Republic, not only in the peace and order of the cities and farms, but in the just pride and satisfaction of the citizens themselves in their country and its accomplishments under President Trujillo.

In 1933 President Trujillo wrote his civic primer with the thought that its simple maxims might have some influence on the younger generation and cause them both to understand what was going on in the nation and become an active part in its rebirth. At his own expense he caused to be printed 20,000 copies which were distributed among school children. Later it was included in the standard primer of reading and writing now in use in all Dominican schools. Its maxims illustrate the foundation of the civic ideals being taught, and at the same time throw a powerful light on President Trujillo's personal philosophy. The civic primer follows:

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The Dominican Republic was founded for peace and work.

Juan Pablo Duarte, who founded it, molded it with his mind, aided it with his resources, and defended it with his sword. But being a generous, honorable and upright man, he preferred exile to spilling the blood of Dominicans in order to conquer his enemies.

With this example, the Dominican nation should have been orderly and peaceful. In spite of it, however, ambition, greed, passion, and the desire to become rich at the expense of the nation, created hatreds, and blood was continually spilled to satisfy the ambition to rule.

With peaceful methods; with elections as a means of electing officials; with tranquility; with respect for law, order would have always ruled and our nation would have enjoyed peace and liberty.

After many years of misfortune, the tragedy of disorder has ended, and it is time for us to think clearly and to try to bring happiness to the Dominican nation through rectitude, liberty and work.

To aid the country in realizing this ideal, we issue this civic primer, which we recommend to all Dominicans.

### *Political Ideas*

*Our Country*—The land where we live. The history of our people. The memory of our forefathers and the hope we have for our children, with a continuous effort to free it and to make it greater; that is Our Country.

*The Nation*—All Dominicans united under the law form the Nation. The Nation has its Flag, its Shield and its Hymn.

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The Flag is the image of our Country.

The Shield is in the Flag, on the breast of the President, on the uniform of soldiers and on official documents, to show that in them reposes the honor of the Republic.

*The Hymn* is the prayer of our country, a prayer that we sing for its glory.

*The Citizen.*—All Dominicans that make up the Nation are *Citizens*. With their votes they elect the Government. With their taxes they sustain the Republic. With their virtues, they honor it. With their blood, they defend it.

*The State.*—The organization charged with governing is called the State. The men who direct it form the Government.

*The Government.*—The Government consists of the President, who carries out all the laws; the Congress, which makes the laws; and the Courts, which give to every one what belongs to him, condemn the guilty and acquit the innocent.

*Order.*—As can be seen, order is the greatest necessity of the Nation, and the Government is charged with maintaining it. So that this may be done, the President of the Republic appoints officials and has an army, which together see that everyone complies with the laws.

### *Peace Is Objective*

*Peace.*—Peace is the greatest benefit a nation can enjoy. With Peace all lives are guaranteed and all interests are protected. With tranquility man can work and progress; goods can be augmented; families can be educated; and everyone can go freely anywhere in the nation.

## PRESIDENT TRUJILLO AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

*The Happiness of the People.*—As can be seen, the President works incessantly for the happiness of his people. He maintains peace, sustains the schools, builds the roads, protects labor in every form, helps agriculture, aids industries, conserves and improves ports, carries on the hospitals, favors study, and organizes the army as a guarantee to every orderly person.

In this work every Dominican should help. They should help with work. They should help with respect for the law and with sincere love of peace, for which we give the following civic ideas:

Love your country above all things and obey your government, as the best way of attaining the nation's happiness, which is your happiness.

Work every day, so that you will want for nothing. Feed yourself and feed your family. Guard your honor and the honor of your loved ones, because honor is more important than life itself.

Obey the laws, as your major guarantee. Pay your taxes so that the Government can pay its obligations, and give your services as required by your status as a citizen.

Send your children to school, and teach them to work. Inculcate in them the veneration that they should have for God and the respect they owe to the flag and the laws.

Be proud of being a Dominican. The Republic has a history filled with glory. Our ancestors gave their lives to make it independent and all their property was sacrificed for its liberty.

Let us love our country, trying every day to be better

## THE CIVIC PRIMER

men and women and contributing day by day with our work to improve it in every sense.

Peace is the greatest benefit we can have. We should sustain it by our conduct as peaceful men and women and by prosecuting those who try to end it.

You should see in every revolutionist an enemy of your life and property. In a time of disorder there is no protection nor security. War among brothers is the worst calamity the Republic has suffered.

Remember all the men who have lost their lives in revolutions and it will give you horror. Your life will be in danger if this is repeated. The lives of your children will be lost if we do not end this evil once and for all.

Don't injure anyone. But when you consider yourself injured personally or your rights trampled upon, go to the courts and seek protection in their authority.

Each policeman is your best defender. Each member of the Government is your best adviser and each judge your best friend, to support you if you are in the right and to show you your error if you are in the wrong. But never try to take the law into your own hands, because this leads to the worst mistakes.

Love your parents, to whom you owe your life. Respect and obey them. Thus you will learn to govern your own children and to train them to be obedient and respectful men. And remember that in your home are your happiness and your honor. And you should sustain your home with your affection and honor it by your conduct, respecting it and making it respected.

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Comply with your promises, and do harm to no one. In this way you will win the esteem that good men deserve and you will be loved and appreciated everywhere.

Take care of the roads, and help to open them and keep them. Try to see to it that a new road is open whenever it is needed, because roads are for all the people and make it possible to carry the products which make the region that grows them and the cities that buy them prosperous.

Help your neighbor. Lend him your tools and your animals. Work for him, so that he too will work for you. Live united with your neighbors like brothers. Respect their families, and you will see how great communities can be when they guard the honor of everyone.

Take care of your health and of that of those near you. Don't allow your wife or children to be sick. If they are sick, see that they are cured, for a healthy person can be very useful and bring much happiness, but a sick person has nothing and gives nothing except pain.

Guard yourself against vices, which weaken you and destroy the virtue which gives you strength and honor. A vice can end an entire family and condemn to disgrace many innocent people.

To guard against vices, work and study. Work will give you everything you need, and in books you will find much that is useful and beautiful.

And you will be doing your best when you teach your family to work and give your neighbors an example of work.

Think every day of doing something good. Make money and save a part of what you make. The penny that you



## THE CIVIC PRIMER

leave for tomorrow may serve to cover some necessity or avert some harm. Many times a man has died or been disgraced through not being able to pay that which he threw away the day before.

Conserve what your father left you and try to increase it, or if you inherited nothing try to build up your own estate. But always keep from being useless and do not squander the fruits of your labor.

Give aid to everyone who needs it. God gives us the example of charity, permitting us to have more than we need. Therefore, do not allow anyone near you to suffer without helping him; but take great care not to encourage an idler, because in this you will do harm.

If an assassin passes near you, turn him over to the authorities. He is a man who has killed someone else, and he may kill you perhaps for your property. A criminal is a friend to no one, and it is proper to put him in prison, where he can do no harm and has the opportunity to reform himself.

If a man passes by your house who wants to change the present order, have him arrested. He is the worst of bad men. The criminal who is in jail has killed a person or stolen something. But the revolutionist wants to kill everyone he can and take everything he can find; that belonging to you and to your neighbor. He is your worst enemy.

For this reason you should look on a soldier as a brother who is defending you. Help him. Guide him. Show him the road and accompany him on it to establish order, which is your guarantee. The authorities and the work-

## PRESIDENT TRUJILLO AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

ers should be united in maintaining peace, which is the greatest good that can come to a nation.

See that the Government has in it the most energetic and honest men, and prepare yourself to defend your country by applying the law severely if you are placed in a position of authority. Have no faith in weak and corrupt men, because in their hands everything is lost through their want of nobility and courage, which are indispensable qualities for governing and making a nation happy.

By following these rules you will be a good citizen. You will be satisfied all the days of your life, and you will be able to say that you lived to make your country greater and that you are willing to die for your country, if by your death you can make it more free and happy.

And if you want to conquer all your weaknesses and be a strong man, love God and comply with the precepts of your religion. Each religious thought will purify your spirit, and every action for the sake of your faith will make you more just and more strong so that you can serve more fully your country and humanity.

## Chapter XXI

The President as Seen in His Addresses



## Chapter XXI

### THE PRESIDENT AS SEEN IN HIS ADDRESSES

IT WOULD be wrong in this work, which is dedicated to making the character and accomplishments of President Trujillo better known, to omit some quotations from his addresses during the period of his Presidency, for these addresses give an idea of him that can be secured in no other way. President Trujillo is an eloquent, forceful speaker. In his addresses and messages are revealed noble purposes, loyal precepts, definite and clear knowledge of national problems, and an ardor to aid in every cause for the development of his country.

In the fields of justice, the treasury, education, agriculture—in everything concerning the nation—the President has stood, offering his good-will, his prodigious generosity, his love and his patriotic faith, and his statesmanlike powers. Always he has been observing and acting; correcting defects; stimulating achievements; and cooperating without rest, without any other purpose than the satisfaction of doing his duty and without any other stimulus than his own conscience—with the point of view of the truly great, who know how to sacrifice themselves for the general welfare.

And this general welfare is manifested daily in the number of expressions of loyalty received by the government; in the increased revenue from customs duties and internal revenue; in the cultivation of lands and the progress of commerce and industry.

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To review the President's addresses is to review an entire program of government. Each of them presents a distinct phase, because each one touches on a distinct phase of public administration, or some outstanding act. To review them all would be an extended, difficult work, which historians will later do. Here we shall consider them briefly, giving a few short quotations to illustrate the character and the type of mind of the President of the Dominican Republic.

It has been said that the addresses of the President are diamonds with limpid facets, casting an admirable light and possessing an immense solidity. In them one feels the ardor, the relentless drive to be worthy of ideals, to lead the Dominican people to the heights of civilization implied in the President's slogan: Righteousness, Liberty, Work. Are not, for example, these words on the subject of justice, addressed to the magistrates of the nation, worthy of being engraved on plates of bronze on the walls of all the tribunals of the world? Here they are:

"You are independent, and yours is the responsibility for carrying out justice. Nothing and no one must intrude upon that independence and that responsibility, because if you follow the dictates of others or of your own prejudices, you will be led into crimes of your own, alienation from your duty, deceit and abuse of power, which are in my judgment the worst forms of social treason.

"I want you to know my feeling that you stand beside me, but entirely independent of me, following the English conception of democracy. Not I, nor anyone in my name, nor any government official because of his position, nor anyone close to me by ties of blood or of affinity, nor any friend whom I cherish, nor anyone, finally, of those who

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carry out my policies, has the right to ask you, in the name of any personal desire or interest, to abridge your independence, or to urge you to violate your oath or to betray justice.

“I wish to declare to you that, instead of serving me and ingratiating yourselves in my esteem when you do this, you will gain my dislike and my disdain, because nothing arouses in me resentment so bitter as any act by which a man who has enjoyed public confidence betrays society and devotes himself to private gain and personal interest.”

And he adds a little later in the address:

“I believe there cannot be bread more bitter than that that dishonestly acquired; nor good fortune that can be pleasing when it has been obtained against the dictates of one’s conscience; and that a stolen fortune must be a torture, for then even charity itself must torture the one who gives what has been stolen from its rightful owner.”

Notice how, with the strength of his spirit and the virility of his soul bent on overcoming obstacles, he said, at the time of the inauguration of the Ozama Bridge on July 12, 1933:

“To create what is lacking and to make again what is lost is the law of my mind and my arm. I came into office to work, and you will find me battling at every moment for the earnest desires of my people. Mine has been a period of great tests, filled with difficulties, and I have not relaxed for a moment. I have proved with the eloquence of action that when the nation, and the nation alone, is the object of the leader; when honor and courage sufficient to resist personal temptations and the pleasure of

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friendly politics with a comfortable outlook on life, are put into play, everything can be done with our own resources.’’

Listen to him when citizens, representing all sections of national life, gathered at a great meeting at Santiago de los Caballeros to offer him homage for his outstanding work of government:

“If for my efforts as a leader I have the hope of obtaining a merited recompense, it is based on the firm conviction that you, who are the silent initiators of the future greatness of the nation, will always respond with the full strength of your most noble efforts to the corresponding efforts of one who, like myself, from the seat of power, has work as his motto and the protection of private initiative as the surest means of solidifying the work which I accomplish in the expectation that tomorrow it will form part of the most precious inheritance left to our children.’’

His concept of peace is so exalted, and he has such faith in the virtue of work, that above the hate of his enemies and the calumnies that have been made regarding him, he rose, to say to the immense crowd listening to him, at the inauguration of the suspension bridge over the Yaque River:

“Among the projects of political and administrative importance, undertaken by my administration, I have given preference to uniting with perfect lines of communication the various regions of our country which are separated not only by actual distance but by other obstacles which previous administrations found insuperable.

“Tradition shows as a fatal fact that under the protec-



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tion of swift rivers and inaccessible declivities, the enemies of peace, who are also the enemies of work and prosperity, found an ambush in which they might do their work, keeping the nation in fear, and menacing the stability of the government. Whenever peace was disturbed, the impassable condition of the roads, holding back the forces which endeavored to re-establish it, was the first and surest factor on which the rebels counted, and thus in the recent past such attempts were often made to upset our peace, sacrificing it on the altar of personal power.”

And almost immediately after this, in the same speech, he addressed workers, farmers and herders of the regions of Mao and the northwest border, not as President of the Republic, not as the chief executive, but as a brother in the labors of the nation :

“Happy days will soon be here again for Dominican production. My efforts for the future welfare of the nation, and the corresponding efforts of which all parts of the nation are giving proof, make it possible for me to feel that an economic harvest will crown our great struggle for the ideal held by the founders of our nation, of a nation great in the fulfillment of its destinies, great in the defense and augmentation of its riches.

“After the errors of the recent past, in which the faith of the public in its representatives was lost, only a policy of honor and of hard work, expressed in the regulation and efficient handling of the public treasury and in the building of modern means of communication, can bring back tranquility and confidence to the nation.”

During the seventieth anniversary of the national restoration of independence, he gave a discourse in Santiago

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de los Caballeros in which the heroic spirit which shows his strength and gives brilliance to all his actions stands out. Here is a fragment of that discourse:

“I count, in the tremendous work of political and social reconstruction which I am conducting, on the power of reaction of our people from their bitter misfortunes. Our mission is to continue what is represented in the history of Baluarte and Capotillo. It is also to repair the damage done to the Dominican people, which was the cause of the internecine wars which retarded the progress of the nation.

“The liberators of the nation did their part, and we could not ask for more from them. The leaders of today must play their part also, and if in the past an inevitable condition of patriotism was absolute fidelity to the cause of liberty, now the cause of peace requires equal fidelity.

“At the point at which the liberator finished, the statesman must begin. Unfortunately when our nation was first created, a leader failed to appear who subordinated power to the needs of the growing country. Zeal and energy, wise administration, were lacking. Everything fell in the painful course of civil wars, and the country went through long years of vacillating existence.”

When the occasion was the honoring of his work as a patriot by decorating him with the Grand Cross as Benefactor of his Nation, on August 16, 1933, his modesty was shown thus:

“I receive this tribute of the National Congress with no little emotion, in consideration of what I have been able to accomplish in the last three years of administration. It is an inspiration in my efforts. I never dreamed

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that in a time so relatively short I could have done enough to merit this precious token, because if it is a fact that I have made of my life a continuous offering of patriotic love and faithful devotion to duty, without reckoning the difficulties from which the road of rectitude is not exempt, I never realized that I would see myself honored in this way on an occasion so solemn for the Republic—my breast emblazoned with the Grand Cross of Benefactor of the Nation, in whose center appears, glorified with the light of his greatness, the venerated likeness of Juan Pablo Duarte.

“I accept it more as a stimulus to him who struggles, as an inspiration to persevere, than as an honor to the value of his previous efforts.”

And when the municipal government of Santiago de los Caballeros conferred on him the order of Meritorious Citizen, he said:

“The fact that I am the first to receive this high honor makes me renew my pledged word that at any hour while I am President of the Republic my efforts for the people shall not be disregarded. I am convinced that men and nations in the final weighing of values receive only the recompense they merit—a reward for their efforts or punishment for their errors.”

Between this extraordinary man and the leaders who preceded him there is a tremendous contrast. This contrast is seen in the intimate connection between his words and his actions. The close relationship between them makes the life of President Trujillo a living and eloquent example of the axiom: “He preaches well who lives well.”

Thus when the Ramfis Bridge was inaugurated—the

longest suspension bridge in Latin America—he said feelingly:

“I like much more to dedicate such a structure as this than to make the first announcement of it. The placing of the first stones does not fit my temperament. I prefer to place the last ones. My character is more suited to stand in silence until the eloquence of an accomplished task speaks for itself.”

And this is the truth, for the administration of President Trujillo has never celebrated the placing of a first stone—a practice that was the invariable habit of former leaders.

Without the accompaniment of boastful announcements, the nation has seen the building of the largest bridges in its history, which are, as he himself said at the inauguration of one of them, “triumphant arches lifted over the path of progress.” He has completed a system of national highways which reach even the most remote regions, showing by his actions what he proclaimed in these magnificent words:

“Easy means of transportation across plains and mountains are instruments of peace, because there is no real tranquility without rapid access to the thickets where formerly the enemies of social peace gathered—men of the jungle, irritants in the social order, inimical to work.”

Preaching by example rather than by words, he has entered and stimulated every field of endeavor in the nation. His policy has been, above all, that of unremitting labor. It is for that reason that his words took on the force of those of an evangelist when he once explained in an address: “My best friends are workers.”

## Chapter XXII

What Others Think of President Trujillo



## Chapter XXII

### WHAT OTHERS THINK OF PRESIDENT TRUJILLO

IN THE pages that follow the opinions of a number of people regarding the personality and work of President Trujillo are given. These demonstrate the affection in which he is held, not only by his countrymen, but by foreigners acquainted with the history of the last five years in the Dominican Republic.

*Address delivered by Mr. E. I. Kilbourne at a banquet given by the representatives of the sugar companies of the Dominican Republic in the Santo Domingo Country Club for His Excellency, the President of the Dominican Republic, General Rafael Leonidas Trujillo Molina.*

Your Excellency and Gentlemen:

During a period of many months the Dominican sugar industry has joined actively in the great popular movement which is seen throughout the nation, and which has as its purpose the demonstration by the Dominican people, in a practical and overwhelming manner, of their unanimous desire that President Trujillo succeed himself in 1934 as President. We have done everything in our power to contribute to the success of this movement, because we feel that it is vital for the continuation and development of the program of governmental reform initiated by General Trujillo, and for the future prosperity and welfare of the Dominican people. Until this moment, however, we have made no public statement regarding

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this. This has not been due to lack of opportunity, but to a fear that our words would have been completely inadequate to express the true feelings of our hearts, and that after what has been already so marvelously expressed regarding it by great orators whose words we have heard in the last few months, there is little left for us to say. However, we believe it is of fundamental importance that you understand the feelings of the American residents of the Dominican Republic and of the representatives of the sugar industry in particular respecting General Trujillo and his work of government. In a technical sense, as citizens of the United States, we are foreigners; however, by virtue of our long residence in this country and the kindness of the Dominican people, we have come to consider ourselves a part of the Dominican family, and especially this has been the case since President Trujillo took office in 1930.

We are very happy to have the opportunity to express the affection and the loyalty that we feel toward President Trujillo. This loyalty is born not only as a consequence of our friendly personal relations that always have existed between each one of us individually and General Trujillo, but is also the result of the wisdom and foresight that he has shown in considering the problems of the industry with which we are associated. In spite of the great losses and the incidental troubles of the worst years that the industry has known, we have been able to face the future with supreme confidence that in whatever trials and tribulations we could possibly undergo, we would find General Trujillo fully capable of dominating the situation, and that we can count invariably with his sympathy and his support; and this we consider our



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strongest basis for the inevitable struggle of the coming years.

This situation has not always prevailed in the Dominican Republic. Up to ten years ago, and during the period of the military occupation, the whole eastern portion of the country was filled with bandits, and there existed for many years a situation which made out of efforts to grow sugar cane and manufacture sugar more an act of war than of industry. Moreover, we were continually forced to face a certain hostility, as much from the Government of the military occupation as from the Government that succeeded it, born of the belief that the sugar industry, in large part owned by foreigners, was something foreign itself, and without connection with the prosperity or welfare of the Republic, something that was permitted to exist as a potential source of taxes, but not as a vital part of the economic structure of the nation.

However, in the Government that succeeded the military occupation, General Trujillo sent the army, and under his leadership and as a result of it, banditry and similar disorders ceased to exist, and I believe that since that time this nation has been one of the most peaceful of the world. His great work of organizing, training and equipping the National Dominican Army is so well-known that it needs no comment; but it is not generally appreciated that the peace and tranquility which the nation enjoyed after 1924 were not the result of any political system or formula, but came from the existence of this trained army, loyal to its chief and not contaminated by the political intrigues that invariably had destroyed Dominican Governments in the past and made good government an impossibility.

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When General Trujillo reached the Presidency in 1930 the entire situation changed in respect to the attitude of the Government toward the sugar industry. He recognized at once the truly national character of the industry, and he has given it his unvarying support and stimulation, with the result that today we face the future not only with confidence but also with a full and complete comprehension that the support which we are receiving makes it necessary for us to assume the responsibility which is born in every society; and the men identified with the industry appreciate their obligation to society with the Dominican people under the leadership of General Trujillo.

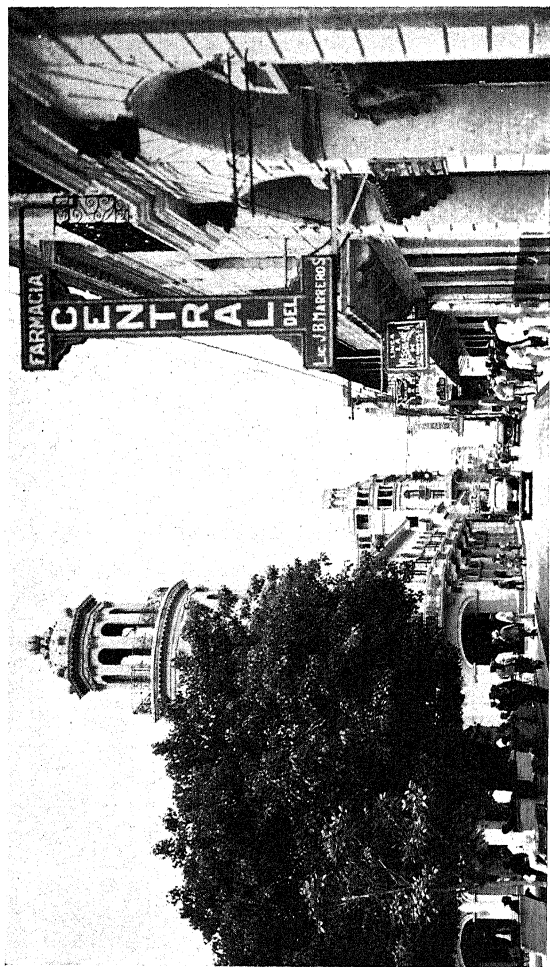
I venture to say that a similar situation regarding foreign capital does not exist today in any other nation of Latin America. When General Trujillo took the reins of government in 1930, he found an exhausted treasury and an impossible financial situation; he has remedied all this.

Speaking in the name of my associates, I wish to say that it is our firm belief that it is essential for the welfare of the Dominican Republic that General Trujillo continue leading the nation as Chief Executive.

It is also our conviction that by virtue of his frequently proven friendship to the Government of the United States and to the American people, he has the right to ask the friendly cooperation of that government when he finds such cooperation necessary to carry into effect and complete his plans for the progress and prosperity of the Dominican Republic. He more truly deserves our friendship and has a greater right to our cooperation than any other Chief Executive that this nation has had, and we assure you that it is our belief that in giving this aid,



The Administrative Council Building in Trujillo City, where the officials of the District of Santo Domingo meet. The District of Santo Domingo is the federal district of the nation, embracing Trujillo City and Villa Duarte, the spot where Columbus built El Rosario Chapel, the first stone chapel where mass was said in the New World. This photograph was taken at the time of the visit of President Vincent of Haiti to the Dominican Republic and with special night illumination used for celebrations.



Conde Street in Ciudad Trujillo, as it passes a park, is seen here. Tourists in the Dominican Republic are unanimous in their delighted expressions at the modern aspect of this, the oldest white settlement in the Western World. Under President Trujillo the city has become one of the finest of world capitals, and the well-clothed pedestrians and modern motors attest the prosperity of the nation, and the great progress which President Trujillo has made possible.

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President Roosevelt will be not only helping a constant and true friend of the Government of the United States, but also promoting the interests of American citizens and capital in this country. We believe that his problems are our problems; that what is beneficial to his Government is beneficial to us, and we are entirely agreeable to leave in his hands the protection of our interests, in the firm conviction that they could not be in better hands.

*By his Grace Archbishop Adolfo A. Nouel.*

The administration of the President, Generalísimo Dr. Rafael Leonidas Trujillo Molina, is unequivocally admirable.

In an epoch like the present, in which the most powerful nations of the world fail to comply with their obligations, the Dominican Republic complies religiously with hers; when all, or nearly all, governments end each fiscal year with a deficit, the Dominican Republic remains within its budget, executes public works, and finishes each fiscal year with a balance in the treasury, represented by actual cash on deposit in banks.

From January of 1935 until the time these words are written, the following public works have been begun and finished: The great "Lucas Diaz" bridge over the Nizao River; the great "Jose Trujillo Valdez" bridge over the Bani River; the President Trujillo highway, which unites the city of Hate Mayor with Sabana de la Mar, and reaches to Bahia de Samana, a highway forty-two kilometers in length; two highways that connect the Sanchez and La Toma highways, and open up the Cambita section in the San Cristobal region; and another

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highway that unites the city of Santiago de los Caballeros with the Baitoa section and connects with the highway from Santiago de los Caballeros to Janico.

Numerous new long distance telephone lines have been put in service, among them those from Ramon Santana to Macoris and Seybo, from Matanzas to Cabrera and San Francisco de Macoris, and from Sabaneta to Guayabin.

The Central Dominican Railway, whose operation formerly was unsuccessful, under the present administration has been extremely successful, to the extent that with its own means it has been able to supplant one route that crossed a dangerous mountain with a 16 per cent grade with a new line, longer but smoother, reducing the grade to 3 per cent. This rerouting was insistently demanded for years by the provinces of Santiago and Puerto Plata. The last administration, headed by General Vasquez, voted the sum of \$250,000 for the construction work, though it was not done; now it has not only been done, but at a cost of less than \$100,000.

Within the next five months the great bridge across the Ocoa River, approximately 800 meters in length, will be completed.

The capital of our nation needs a good harbor. President Trujillo has undertaken the work, and the new port is under construction, with more than four hundred workers employed. The breakwater that is the first step in this important development is almost finished, and by next December ships with a draft up to thirty feet will be able to anchor in the artificial roadstead. This project, which has been the aspiration of every

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previous administration, has been realized only through a superhuman effort in which the funds for it have not been permitted to pass through corrupt hands.

The capital, the city of Trujillo, which is the oldest city of the Americas, has received the finest attention from the present administration. Its streets are all asphalted. Magnificent new drives like George Washington Avenue, four kilometers long, which borders the shores of the Caribbean Sea, ending at Santome Street, have been built; clean and well-cared-for parks have been constructed; the historical sites and ruins which were formerly neglected have been retrieved from their former abandonment, and made into recreation and tourist centers; the Plaza of Columbus has been paved with tiles and completely transformed; the Castle of Columbus has been surrounded by gardens and a beautiful park, lighted at night with indirect lights, and is kept in perfect order.

What a tremendous change has come to my native city! Let every Dominican realize what is happening and cooperate in the marvelous work of national progress which is the work of President Trujillo.

*By Eugene A. Sommer, President of Compania Electrica de Santo Domingo:*

I have been fortunate in securing an intimate knowledge of existing conditions in the Dominican Republic, and of the policies of President Rafael L. Trujillo, both in the program he is carrying out for the economic and social welfare of his country, and his relations with foreign firms operating in the Dominican Republic.

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It is the united opinion of American firms that President Trujillo is building his country in a noteworthy manner, and that the cooperation and guarantees he offers to foreign firms are of the highest order. Above all he demands complete justice for his nation and his people, and all decisions regarding the operation both of native and foreign firms rests on a basis of the greatest possible returns to the Dominican people compatible with fairness to the firms involved. In this attitude he acts with consideration of all elements concerned, and the results have been mutually satisfactory.

It has been my experience to have dealt with the chief executives of several of the Latin American republics in connection with public utility questions, and it is a real pleasure and privilege to state that I have nowhere met with more courtesy or a better spirit of cooperation than has been accorded to us here by President Trujillo.

One important point in negotiations with President Trujillo is his ready and comprehensive grasp of all the elements involved in a problem. As can be easily understood, there are complicated and difficult technical questions in our industry which ordinarily are extremely difficult for a layman to understand; by a layman, of course, I mean one without technical training in the engineering and operating aspects of the public utilities field.

With really amazing insight, President Trujillo quickly arrives at the heart of each problem, and almost as quickly makes his decision based on a true understanding of it. Thus we have been able to arrive at mutually satisfactory solutions of our problems in quick order.

Our company and the writer personally are greatly



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indebted to the sense of fairness and justice rendered us by President Trujillo, to whom we take this opportunity of expressing our admiration and personal gratitude.

*By Theodore S. Orme, Manager for the Sun Insurance Company. (Mr. Orme expresses his views about the country of his adoption, where he has lived for the past 20 years.)*

It is truly an honor to be allowed to say a good word for my adopted country, which so fully deserves any good I may speak of it. My opinion of the country and its people from the viewpoint of a resident American and my knowledge ought to be sound since I have called this country my home for over 19 years.

Trujillo City, Dominican Republic, is the land Columbus loved and which is known to the world as "The Cradle of America." The city was founded in 1496 by the men Columbus left on the island on his second voyage, and today is the oldest established city in the New World built by white men.

Down here the life of the average foreigner, American, British, German or otherwise, is indisputably a pleasant one. We have our country club with its fine golf course and tennis courts, and a dance every Saturday night. The good roads enable us to make week-end visits to our friends in any of the towns of the Republic, or Sunday picnics to the beautiful five-mile horse-shoe beach of Boca Chica, where we spend hours in the warm waters of the Caribbean or lie in the shade of the palm trees that circle the shore. Our theaters keep us plentifully supplied with the Hollywood products, and our newspapers, with

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the world's news and progress, and finally we have our radios where, here as in the States, they form a large part of our entertainment. Then we have the dances and entertainments put on by the various Dominican clubs, the Carnival each year, just before Easter, and occasionally a Presidential dance or reception, which are looked forward to with pleasure by every one, Dominican and foreigners alike.

*By the President of the Curacao Trading Company,  
Trujillo City.*

Amongst the various foreigners who have been talking about the Dominican Republic of today, I originally felt myself as one of the least authorized, because while others can look back on a period of residence in many instances of a considerable number of years, I can only count with the experience of slightly over seven years. This may be sufficient to express an *opinion* about the country, but to talk about *progress* in seven years, in many other cases would be very difficult.

But the remarkable thing about the Dominican Republic is, that this country progressed so much, not during the last *seven* years, but even within a much shorter space of time, namely during the last five years which cover the period of government of its President, Rafael Leonidas Trujillo Molina, who assumed power in the year 1930.

When I came to the Dominican Republic, the country counted some highways which connect the South coast with the North coast, the Eastern provinces with the Western ones, covering its most important regions of

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production. But the great trouble was that these roads were constantly out of repair, with defective bridges, and during the rainy season many times blocked for traffic. It is a special feature of the Government of President Trujillo to conserve what already existed and within a surprisingly short time after President Trujillo took himself the direction of public works into his hands, all highways were repaired and are actually maintained in the best of condition. Besides, many of the temporary wooden bridges, which offered a constant danger of being destroyed by the violent waters, were replaced by modern steel bridges. The principal new ones are: Bridge Generalísimo Trujillo, in kilometer 96 of the central highway "Duarte," the large suspension bridge "San Rafael," which connects permanently a very important agricultural center with the system of highways, and last but not least, the magnificent suspension bridge "Ramfis," over the Higuamo river, inaugurated on the 16th of this month, which is of the highest importance for the connection between the capital and the second port of the Republic, San Pedro de Macoris, connecting further a prominent sugar and cocoa district with the Capital.

The Dominican Government is taking great care in maintaining the main source of prosperity, agriculture, in the best condition and is constantly trying to improve the quality of the produce. After sugar, cocoa is the second export product of importance and a regular crop amounts to about 25,000 tons a year; however, very little care was taken by the farmer to prepare his cocoa well. Consequently, its proceeds were low, its trade difficult. The Government, with its broad views which characterize it, attacked this evil at its very root, sent out in-

spectors to the farthest corners of the country wherever cocoa is being cultivated. These inspectors, who are instructors at the same time, are fulfilling their difficult task to convince the farmers, with very good success. At the same time laws and regulations have been made to make the trade in defective cocoa prohibitive and it can be stated with the greatest satisfaction that during last year no lot of cocoa of any importance has been rejected by the United States on account of defective quality.

Similar measures are in preparation for coffee, which product becomes each year more important and at the same time the Government encourages as much as possible the extension of cultivation of both products mentioned.

A most striking example of what results can be obtained by a well organized campaign for the extension of cultivation, is the actual production of rice in the Dominican Republic. A few years ago native rice production was practically unknown. Nowadays its production is of great importance and it is not exaggerated if I declare that within a comparatively short period of time the Dominican Republic will cover its own rice consumption requirements completely.

And in spite of actual hard times the Dominican Government continues to push energetically its agriculture, maintains an army of inspectors and instructors and employs foreign experts in the Department of Agriculture.

Not only improvements of material advantage are being made but also, as far as circumstances permit, everything is done to make the country and the Capital

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more attractive. After the waterworks had been completed in Trujillo City in 1929, the streets were left in a disastrous condition, but no sooner had the President himself undertaken the direction of Public Works, than all streets in the Capital were paved in a permanent way. A very beautiful avenue along the Caribbean Sea was built, where thousands of people assemble during many hours of the day and evening. Villages in the interior get their picturesque houses painted, sanitary conditions improved, and this only because President Trujillo goes to all parts of his country. Many of his fellow-citizens, people from the country especially who had never seen a President before in their life, know President Trujillo personally, because he travels far to see them and to tell them about his program of government and to know about their needs.

Who reads the history of the Dominican Republic and who talks to elderly people, is surprised by the tales about former frequent revolutions and uprisings which many times made life difficult in the country. Then the merchants close their doors, the farmer stays away from the cities, foreigners lose their confidence. President Trujillo, during the whole of his five years of government, has succeeded to maintain the country in perfect peace and order all the time. The success of President Trujillo's government is greatly due to the complete lack of disturbances of any kind, for which both Dominicans and foreigners cannot be thankful enough.

Under these circumstances it cannot surprise anybody that the actual Dominican Government inspires confidence in the present and the future of this country, which offers still so many possibilities. Immigration of desirable ele-

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ments is being encouraged, foreign capital invited to the country, new markets for Dominican produce catered for and the free development of national industry protected.

*Address delivered by T. B. O'Connell, Resident Inspector and Manager of the Royal Bank of Canada.*

Please do not tune in on another station for the next ten minutes, as my voice comes to you from the oldest country in the new world and one of the most charming and interesting—the Dominican Republic. From my recent conversations in the North I found that some people have heard very little about the Dominican Republic and that some have heard of it as a hot place down South where living conditions are unpleasant. As a matter of fact, it is not hot—the average is more or less 80, even during the summer days, and the nights are nearly always delightfully cool. The climate is really one of the finest on earth. Life is pleasant here, too. The people are particularly friendly, Spanish, their language, is very easily learned, and some of the old customs which modern life has not yet effaced develop a pleasing air of romance. There is no turmoil and liberty generally is unrestricted. The cost of living is very moderate.

The country is progressive, too. When I came here to reside, 15 years ago, a lot of my travelling was possibly only by horse and small boat. Today there is a network of highways connecting every hamlet in the country and the journey across the island, which formerly took two days on a horse, is now possible in three hours in a comfortable automobile. There is also an airplane service available at Trujillo City and there are landing fields at all im-

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portant outside towns. The Republic has an area of over 19,000 square miles. It is essentially an agricultural one, producing sugar, cocoa, coffee, tobacco, bananas, oranges, figs, rice, beans—in fact, we have the most diversified list of products of any of the islands in the Antilles. We have many manufactured products as well, including cigars, cigarettes, chocolate, boots and shoes, hats, clothing of all kinds, furniture from native mahogany, which is rated one of the finest on earth—in fact, most of the necessities.

Commerce generally is on a fairly modern scale. The stores are well stocked and the display and service at Trujillo City and other important points compare very favorably with cities of the same size in the north. The banking needs of the country are supplied by branches of Canadian and American banks. Their operations are on an important scale; moderate credit is extended to merchants, growers, etc., and although the crisis has resulted in some commercial losses, current trade obligations are being met in a very satisfactory manner.

Naturally we keep in touch with the outside world through radios, but our newspapers, particularly in Trujillo City, are generally better than those found in any city of the same size in the South, and we have every reason to be proud of them. Art and amusements are not neglected. Over the radio recently I heard broadcasted from WGY two compositions by Dominican artists. The people are naturally musical and two or three nights a week band concerts are heard in parks all over the country. Native orchestras furnish music for dances, which are enjoyed just as much as they are in the North.

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Baseball, football, volley ball and tennis are common sports here. The young Dominican is almost as much a baseball fan as the young American. The popular sport of foreigners is golf, and there are five good courses at different points in the Republic.

The Government of the Republic, under the able direction of President Rafael L. Trujillo, is decidedly progressive. The President, who is a trained military man, takes a keen interest in the army and it is very fully equipped, even to modern airplanes. The Government is eminently fair in the treatment of its international obligations. Interest is regularly paid and will continue to be paid, and it is the policy to resume amortization payments as soon as revenue conditions permit. The bonded indebtedness of the country is one of the smallest for a nation of its size in the world, and the country's floating debt, the legacy of the cyclone of 1930 and the period of depression generally, is being annually reduced. Notwithstanding depreciated revenues, current expenses are well met. Bridges to a value of \$730,000 have been built during the past year and highways are being reasonably well maintained. This work is naturally being done by Dominicans, but I have noticed that if the President finds that his people have not been specially trained for work which must be done immediately, he does not hesitate to employ outside experts—British, American—to conform with his policy of getting things done quickly consistent with paying possibilities.

Many tourists come here, and even if they stay only a short time, this gives them time to see the capital at Trujillo City, which is full of historical interest, including the monument containing the remains of Columbus, and a



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number of very interesting churches, and to get a glimpse of tropical shrubbery and flowers that bloom all the year round; but the interior is the garden of the country and a stop-over of a week would be well worth while. The drive across the country and through its interior is interesting from a vegetation and floral point of view, and one also has the opportunity of seeing the locally famous shrine at Santo Cerro, near La Vega, and enjoying the beautiful views along the highway between Santiago, in the interior, and Puerto Plata, on the Atlantic coast.

I am not talking of Utopia, but when one considers that there are no shelter problems, few food problems, and that peace reigns in all parts of the country, it must be admitted that the possibilities are well worth investigating. Come and see the Dominican Republic. Comfortable steamers are regularly available from American and European points, and the Republic is also the port of call of the Pan-American Airways System, whose operations are very well known. You will be welcome here and I am sure that a visit will prove enjoyable and beneficial from every point of view.

*By Mr. C. K. Schmidt, President of the American Chamber of Commerce of the Dominican Republic.*

The Dominican Republic is a progressive country, ably managed by a capable, courageous President who takes personal pride in making it a still better place in which to live.

I have reason to be enthusiastic about this island. It has given me health, which was denied me in the States.

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I am not advertising anything and I have nothing to sell to you, but if you are afflicted with arthritis, pack a grip and come on over; the sun does beneficial things.

Are the tropics hot? They are. But believe it or not, you will not feel the heat as much here as you do in any of our middle western cities. Every night you will enjoy your blanket.

I have been in all sections of the United States and never have seen so nearly a perfect climate as here. The winters are wonderful, without storms or extremes.

It is beyond me why this country is not the biggest winter resort in the world. Perhaps it will be some day. That's an idea for someone with idle capital. I give you this tip free.

When I arrived in Trujillo City in December, 1931, I found the streets of the city and the roads leading out of it indescribably bad. It is an actual fact that many people preferred walking to their destination to riding in a car.

A few months ago I made several trips by automobile to the important city of San Pedro de Macoris. Just before reaching the city, one crossed the Higuamo River on a ferry propelled by an old Model T Ford engine; that is, one crossed when the ferry was on his side. Once the old Model T played a joke and some friends of mine left their car and crossed in a skiff. Now a beautiful suspension bridge crosses the river, a bridge that would do credit to any city in the world.

Many modern bridges are now replacing dilapidated old structures; all were built during the past year or are now in the process of completion.

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The hundreds of ruins of houses that a year ago stood as ghostly reminders of the hurricane are nearly all torn down and new beautiful hurricane-proof buildings replace them. The old, carelessly built buildings are gone, thanks to the hurricane, and now it is safe to say that the city is built to "stay put."

Most all of this has been done during the time I have been here. I tell you this to show you the spirit of the Dominican people.

The hurricane didn't lick them; the depression didn't stop them; these handicaps just spurred them on to do greater things under the wise leadership of President Trujillo. You just can't lick people like these. They are truly courageous and progressive. In my home city, the "go-get-one city" of Chicago, I have often heard the expression, "Well, let's stop talking and begin to do something." That is the spirit that rules the Dominican Republic. Things are happening daily without a lot of talk or fuss. They just go ahead and do things.

I have just read of the plans of the President under the able direction of Engineer Rogers to restore the ancient castles and cathedrals. Some of the work has already been begun. Old pictures and cuts are being examined so that the restoration of the old time beauty or grimness of it will be perfect.

To appreciate what has been done it would be necessary to have been here two and a half years ago. This is now a new country in an old land, full of promise of a rich future.

It wasn't so long ago that when, if ever you heard of the Dominican Republic you perhaps thought of some

city in South America, but if you were interested you consulted your atlas and found it was a Republic of a little more than a million people on one of the islands of the West Indies, somewhere out in the Atlantic Ocean.

It is my prediction that some day the Dominican Republic will be as well known as California or Florida, that it will be known as the "Miami of the Atlantic," six hours by plane from the Miami of Florida, the winter resort without storms. People will come not only to enjoy its agreeable climate, but also to see the land that Columbus loved, the home of his family, the cathedral he built and in which his remains still rest, the statue in "Parque Colon," one hand holding a compass and the other pointing off across the Caribbean to the America that he thought was India, to see the tree to which he tied his ship, to walk the same streets he walked, to see Fort San Geronimo with its moat, and many other historic places. Many sights strange to the average person may be seen here; for example, one may see a fence made of mahogany.

This is a strange and fascinating country.

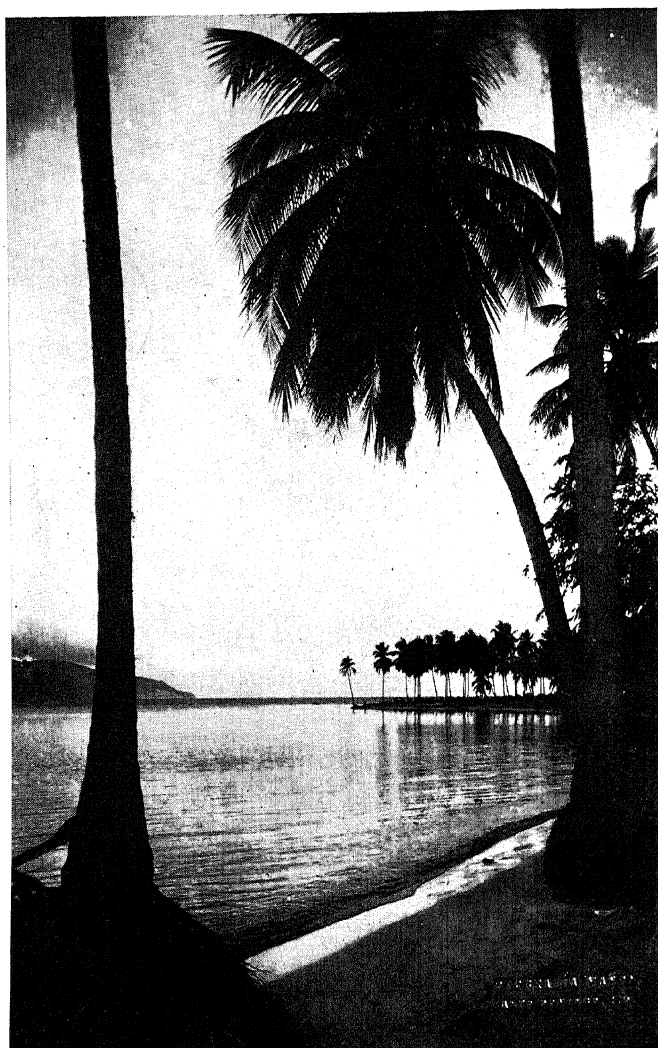
Eventually people will come here in great numbers seeking pleasure and historical lore.

*By J. E. Wheeler, Supervisor of the National City Bank of New York in the Dominican Republic.*

As a resident of the Dominican Republic during the past 14 years, I am glad of the opportunity of addressing a few words to my countrymen in the North in regard to this land so beloved by Columbus.



La Toma, thirty minutes from the capital of the Dominican Republic. It is a renowned bathing pavilion, its pure and healthful water famed throughout the Republic, and is one of the loveliest sites in the nation. Trujillo City is also well known for its pure, splendid drinking water. So famous is this excellent water that people from many lands often return to imbibe this very healthful water.



A lovely view taken at the city of Barahona. The Dominican Republic  
abounds in magnificent scenery of every type.

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Although this talk will not be limited to commercial matters, I wish to mention that I am talking in my capacity as President of the American Chamber of Commerce in the Dominican Republic. Perhaps some of those listening at this moment are not aware that this American Chamber of Commerce has been in existence for ten years, its purpose being to develop commercial interchange between the United States and the Dominican Republic. If its function and services have not been made known generally in both countries, this is due to the fact that three foreign banking institutions, one of them American, have been established here much longer and render more or less similar services. They are: The National City Bank of New York, with six branches in the principal cities; The Royal Bank of Canada, with five branches, and The Bank of Nova Scotia, with one branch in the capital city.

The Dominican Republic is less than a day by air from New York. The Pan-American Airways provides regular mail and passenger service. The New York and Puerto Rico Line weekly steamer service provides comfortable transportation to and from New York via Puerto Rico. Other lines running steamers to and from the country are the Bull Insular Line, Lykes Steamship Company, Spanish Lloyd, Horn Line, Cuban Line, etc. Inasmuch as the area of the Dominican Republic is 19,300 square miles, and the greater part of the population is concentrated in a half dozen cities and towns, it is evident that there are large tracts of fertile land waiting to be cultivated. When this takes place it will mean increased exports, since the Dominican Republic is fundamentally an agricultural country.

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The chief export of the country is, and has been for the last few decades, cane sugar. On account of the world overproduction of this commodity and the lack of an understanding in regard to preferential tariffs such as that enjoyed by Cuba, it has been necessary to sell in markets outside of the United States. In spite of this handicap, the economical production of sugar and good harvests have permitted most of the sugar mills to continue operations. Next to sugar the most important exports are, in the order named, cacao, coffee, tobacco, corn, hides and skins, and lumber.

The principal manufactured articles are cigars and cigarettes, starch, matches, shoes and leather. The country and its climate would warrant the establishment of many more factories, and the inversion of capital would be more than justified. Any new industries would find an adequate outlet through local agents, and the banking institutions operating here are in a position to take care of their industrial requirements.

First class highways connect all towns of importance, and the principal ports of Trujillo City, San Pedro de Macoris, La Romana, Puerto Plata, Sanchez and Barahona enjoy the benefit of a coastal service in addition to the steamers of the lines already mentioned.

Those who do not know this country may be surprised to learn of our recreational facilities. In addition to the excellent beaches where swimming can be thoroughly enjoyed, there are five golf courses, tennis courts galore, and comfortable hotels in the principal cities.

Contrary to what is generally believed by those only superficially informed about this country, the national



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pastime is not cock-fighting, but baseball, believe it or not. During the past few weeks three national teams proved their ability to compete with Puerto Rican, Cuban, and even American teams. Much could be learned from the Dominicans about sportsmanship.

To those interested principally in the development of commercial relations with this country, I would say, as a banker well acquainted with business transactions abroad, that most of the difficulties encountered are due to lack of knowledge, on the part of our foreign friends, of the relative laws ruling here.

Any information relating to business transactions can be had by writing to the above-mentioned banks or to the Secretary of the American Chamber of Commerce in Trujillo City. With due respect to American exporters, I wish to say that they have much to learn besides the question of prices and terms of sale in order to be in a better position to compete in Latin-American markets.

Many of the difficulties encountered are minor and could easily be avoided by intercommunication. Allow me to illustrate: Hardly a week goes by without some importer of American goods being advised that the merchandise is in the custom house before he is in receipt of the relative shipping documents. This implies the imposition of a fine for his failure to produce the shipping documents and this is hardly conducive to good will when the importer knows only too well that he is not at fault.

This could be avoided by making sure that the shipping documents come down by the same steamer conveying the merchandise, or if this is impossible owing to lack

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of time, they are forwarded via air mail. Otherwise misunderstandings arise.

This country has been no exception, from a commercial point of view, to the effects of the post-war period, but in addition thereto she had to contend with the hurricane of September, 1930. In spite of these difficulties, it can be said, generally speaking, that during the past five years business men have succeeded in readjusting their organizations and have taken care of their obligations. As soon as the "traditional corner" has been turned, this country will become a valuable market for products needed in this climate. As in other countries, the optimism and prosperity prevailing before 1930 resulted in an accumulation of private and national debts in this republic, which in many instances exceeded the ability to pay. But under this fiscal policy of the present Government, whose obligations are relatively small in comparison with those of other governments, the economies effected in the national budget, and the realization by business and individuals of the necessity for economy, I am convinced that any foreign observer cannot fail to appreciate the progress being made under the efficacious leadership of the President, Generalísimo Rafael L. Trujillo Molina.

### *Radio Talk by Dr. Victor Lyle Dowdell.*

I speak to you for just a few minutes this evening from Trujillo City, the Capital of the Dominican Republic, to tell you chiefly of my great interest in the preservation of the country's early faith, shown in the existence of massive temples erected to the greater glory of God and for the spiritual welfare of the Dominican Republic.

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The citizens of the Dominican Republic are well called Dominicans, not simply because they stand as namesakes of the Great Dominic, but because Dominicans have long been called defenders of the faith.

Probably there never were people who took their religion more seriously than the great Spanish religious thinkers of the sixteenth century, the same century in which the great churches of our city were built. To those great leaders religion was everything. They cared for nothing else. In the century when the New World was being discovered, and the spirit of adventure had seized hold of the Spanish nation, when the river at Seville was full of ships newly returned from strange and fascinating lands, in days when the Spanish infantry was sweeping all before it in Europe, these holy men seem to have cared for none of these things. Other interests exclusively claimed them. They sought adventure in the region of the spirit, and the stories they had to tell were no less marvelous than those of the conquistadores.

Spanish religion which was transplanted to these shores had an intense spiritual element. Religion was not only something for monks and nuns. Everybody shared in the enthusiasm. The soldiers and sailors of the Armada cared far more for the triumph of Catholicism than even for the prestige of the Spanish flag.

Saint Theresa and Saint John of the Cross were not lonely figures in the midst of a careless and unmystical world; they simply represented the highest pitch to which the spirituality of the people was brought.

It is this care for spiritual things, this belief that the spiritual world is closely intertwined with the visible world,

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to which the paintings of El Greco testify. The long thin faces, with high narrow foreheads, of the Spaniards are faces of men with an ideal which is not of this world. They are of the type which produce Saints.

It was into this world with its care for spiritual things and its worship of spiritual excellence that this city was born.

How the faithful have bestowed upon the churches outward signs of their faith. Witness the lavish use of pure silver, finely wrought, that adorns the sacred altars. There are candlesticks and other objects of extraordinary artistic value. The Cathedral itself possesses priceless jewels and plate.

The man, whether priest or layman, who cared extremely for his soul and endeavored to climb as high as possible the steep road of sanctity was honored by his fellows.

It is indeed natural that the distinguished Generalissimo Rafael Leonidas Trujillo Molina, President of the Dominican Republic and Benefactor of his Native Land, should be proud to march with the clergy when the Blessed Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood is carried in solemn procession.

To safeguard loyalty to Christ, this nation has its own special consideration for His Mother, who is venerated as Our Lady of High Grace, and a day is set apart by the State every January in her honor, that the Dominican people may not forget His words when he said *Behold Thy Mother*.

Here we have such wonderful churches as St. Nicholas,

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St. Francis, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Our Lady of Mercies, Queen of Angels, Our Lady of High Grace, Our Lady of Help, Saint Michael and Santa Barbara, with hordes of people attending masses and, on great festivals, Solemn Te Deum.

A person with the most rudimentary artistic appreciation can not help but be impressed at these temples. To the connoisseur in art there is a feast spread.

As Trinity Church stands at the head of Wall Street, to speak to men engaged in commerce, so there is a cathedral (a Basilica) in the very heart of the city, a cathedral that was constructed a hundred years before New York was bought from the Indians.

I speak of the cathedral which houses the remains of Christopher Columbus. Its roof symbolizes the overshadowing protection of Divine Love. Its beams symbolize the unity of faith. Its vaulting symbolizes the heavens to which prayers ascend. Its columns symbolize the glorious prophets, the noble army of martyrs, the defenders of the Faith. The pavements symbolize the foundations of the Church of which the Corner Stone is Christ.

All symbolism is an outward expression of ideas.

In all Catholic countries the relations between Church and State is from time to time of extremely great importance. Seldom does one find such peace and concord as in the Dominican Republic. It is a Catholic country which allows everyone to worship according to the dictates of his conscience.

Here is a country where nationalism is strong and also where Catholicism is strong, the ideal of Dante. As

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man's nature is twofold, corruptible and incorruptible, so man needs two guides, the Church and State, each acting in its own sphere that good may come to the other.

The State is always mindful of material needs as well. She builds new roads and bridges, and in countless other ways a material environment where the soul of man can be ministered to by the Church, so that the whole environment becomes truly spiritual.

Dominicans, defenders of the Lord. As His interests have been cared for in the past, and in the present, so may they ever be in the future.

*Interview with President Trujillo published in the Listin Diario in 1935:*

Our interview had been arranged for five o'clock in the afternoon. It was ten minutes to five and we were ten blocks from the presidential mansion. A taxicab solved the problem of arriving on time.

Now we were in front of the President's offices. Seven steps up, a porch, a beautifully clean waiting room. Various people, sitting there. An atmosphere of a physician's waiting room. Absolute silence. Occasionally the throbbing tingle of a telephone bell. We crossed a little parlor and entered a large room. Four desks. The office of the Secretariat of State of the Presidency: the nerve center of the governmental mechanism. Men working busily in spite of the summer heat. Another room. Suddenly the enigmatic gaze of the President, disconcerting us. He invited us to sit down on a comfortable couch.

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We were now face to face with the illustrious Dominican, who in his ceaseless work of good government fills the age in which he lives, projecting his formidable personality over everything.

President Trujillo wore an impeccable white suit with a narrow stripe of mourning black on the label. His hair is sprinkled with silver, adding to his air of distinction. He leaned back in his chair and crossed his hands.

"Although you are a man of action rather than words," we began, "we would like a description of some of your future projects."

"In effect," he answered, "the wordiness of the tropics has always left in words that which the imagination created in dreams. Frankly I am a man of action. I don't want to say by this that I never have dreams. Before the realization of my acts they have always passed through a stage of formation, which are my dreams.

"Besides the normal administrative functions of all governments, it has been my special desire from the beginning of my administration to give our country a new standing in the conclave of civilized nations. I wanted for our country and always insisted on having and securing for it the greatest respect and the most absolute international respect. The Dominican territorial limits could not be allowed to be obstacles to our dignity and decorum, which are illimitable. To secure this treatment we had to make ourselves worthy of this respect and this was done only by operating our government on a basis of strict governmental etiquette."

"Are you satisfied with the success of this policy?"

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“Partly, but there remains much to be done. I am establishing international relations that previously did not exist. I am following a policy of offering foreign residents of our country the most liberal guarantees of work and security. I am conducting an educational campaign scientifically organized to cause the republic to be more widely known, and in the country itself we are carrying on a campaign of beautification to make it a popular tourist center of irresistible charm.

“To accomplish this we have constructed and are constructing roads, highways, bridges, boulevards, beautiful drives, forts and other things indicating progress in a material way.

“One of the most intensive projects has always been the development of agriculture. We must realize that ours is a country essentially agricultural, whose future hope for wealth lies in agricultural development. The efforts that I have made in this direction have fortunately brought excellent results. Our imports of many products, such as rice, which is consumed in enormous quantities, have been notably reduced due to the increase of our own crops. And other selected products of ours are now being sold in foreign markets. The distribution of land in various regions to poor farmers will augment our national agricultural production.”

“Do you think that the new port at Trujillo City will increase the flow of tourist travel?”

“I think that the importance of this port is so great that it is hard for us to grasp it. Undoubtedly it will be an important factor in bringing tourists, but there will be others. In the months to come we shall carry out a



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building program of theaters, hotels, casinos, bathing pavilions, interesting drives and other features which contribute to happiness of spirit, and which will help to attract tourists.

“Still another part of my plans lies in cultural development for our country.”

“Do you refer to the educational program which is now being conducted?”

“To that and to another plan which you perhaps do not yet know.

“The National University is being completely reorganized, and will have new buildings.

“A new law has just been passed for the care of the national collection of archives of the nation, that precious fountain of our past glories containing notable documents, because until now it has been little more than a warehouse for old papers. Next month construction begins of a superb palace to contain these archives and the National Library which will be created and which will have about 300,000 volumes. That institution will be the pride of this city.”

“Can you tell us something about the new political order?”

“Yes, but in a few words. I am offering the nation a new political orientation. The national life under our new political and administrative order has a new dimension: that of work.

“The intimate substance of the Dominican Nation is in a state of complete change. And you can observe

easily how everything that has in it a germ of progress either comes near to me or I come near to it.

“I represent my nation and I spend my life in searching in its spirit to see what it really wants. And believe me, it aspires only to peace and contentment: a land of men who work and not men who complain. It is the birth of a new national spirit which is giving a definite personality to what was formerly just another country.”

“Can you tell us something regarding the Dominican-Haitian frontier arrangements?”

“The only thing that I can say is that the matter has been brought to a happy termination in a spirit of reciprocal understanding and patriotic interest. A notable fact is that this agreement, the question of Leticia between Peru and Colombia, and the peace between Paraguay and Bolivia over the Chaco, are three matters that have been resolved in a way that brings honor to the Americas. The nations involved have demonstrated their power to curb their personal ambitions and suspicions in favor of peace and progress. It has long been my hope to see in the near future a League of American Nations which will perhaps be more important for us than the present League of Nations, because ours is a common destiny and the aspirations of our nations are the same. The Christian concept of fraternity has possibly its deepest foundation in the nations of the Americas.”





















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